BAKI

THE GRAPPLER

KEISUKE ITAGAKI

9

BAKI

THE GRAPPLER

KEISUKE ITAGAKI

PERFECT EDITION

9

BAKI THE GRAPPLER

CONTENTS

#131	Challenging Yujiro!!	005
#132	The Strongest Unit	025
#133	War	045
#134	Unseen Enemies!!	065
#135	Super Soldier Gaia	085
#136	The Sharpest Edge	105
#137	Strong Style Declaration	125
#138	Skunk	145
#139	This is War	165
#140	Team	195
#141	Gaia Appears	215
#142	Split Personalities	235
#143	Latent Potential Full Throttle	255
#144	I'll Go Full Throttle Too!!	275
#145	A Soul Betrayed	295
#146	One-Hundred Pieces of Bloodlust	315

#131 Challenging Yujiro!!

YUJIRO-OOO!

YUJI-ROO-OOO!!!

WHIFF

SKSH

WHIFF

ZWIP

DOMF
ZWIP
...!
YASHAA-AAA!

RAAAAAH!

OOORGH!

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?!

HOW COULD YOU...

DO NOT LET ME GET AWAY WITH THIS!!!

YES!!!

GRAB

EVEN IF IT'S YOUR OWN FATHER...

...WHO DOES SOMETHING AS CRUEL AS THIS...

SOME-ONE...

...CAN NEVER BE FORGIVEN!

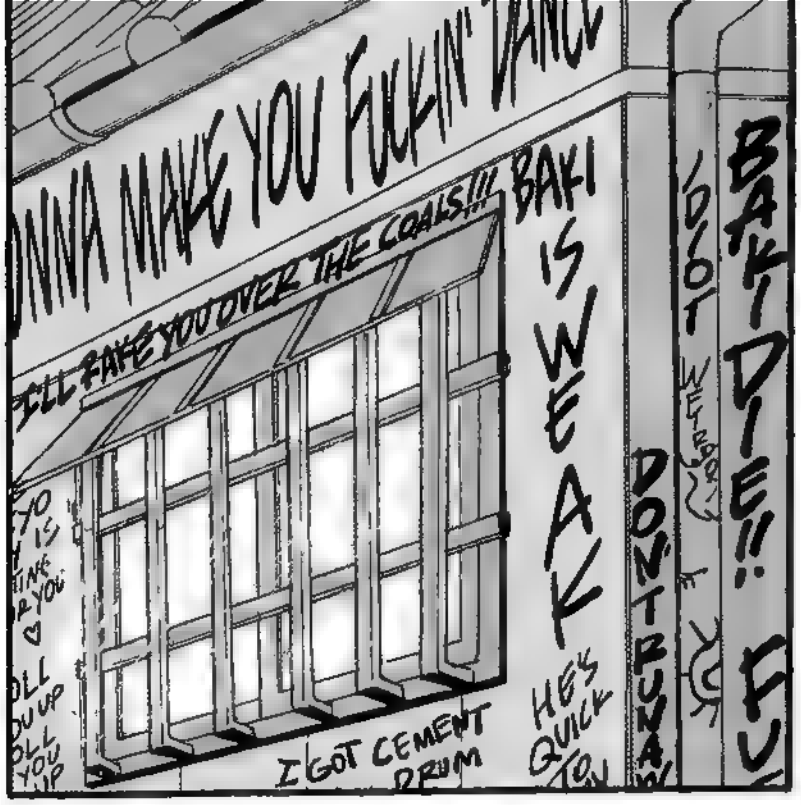
BAKI...!

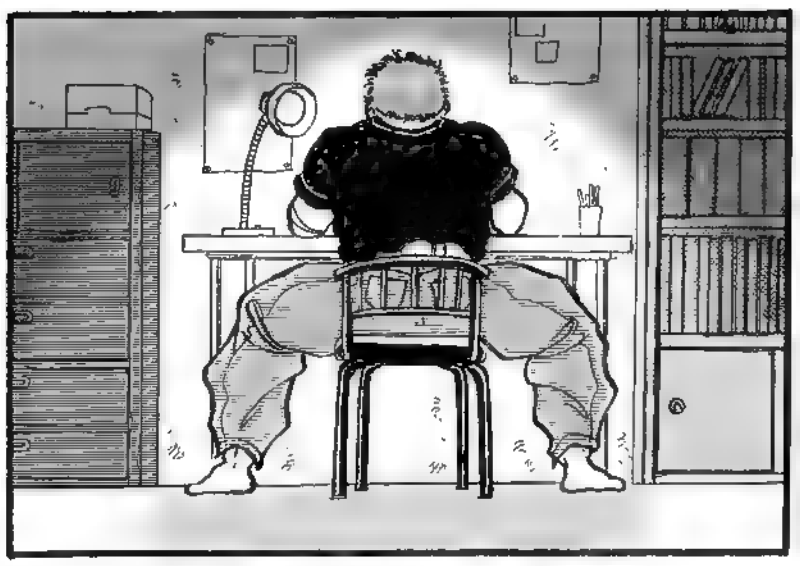
...!

...!!!

KAW!!
YOU HAVE ONE MONTH!!!!
FLAP
FLAP
KAW
NIBBL
POKE
POKE
FLAP
FLAP

STAY BAAAACK!


ONNA MAKE YOU FUCKIN' DANCE
I'LL RAKE YOU OVER THE COALS!!!
BAKI IS WEAK
HE'S QUICK TO
I GOT CEMENT DRUM
DON'T RUNAW
IDIOT
BAKI DIE!!
FU



I'LL FUGGIN' KILL YOU!
BRING IT
DIE DIE
YOU'RE A BITCH FLYING INTO THE FLAME
DO I SCARE YOU?
GONNA PLUCK YOUR BALLS OFF!
YOU BETTER FACE ME!
I WON'T RUN OR HIDE!
I'LL KILL YOU!
YOU'RE REALLY WEAK

CHNGL
チャラ…

POP
WHA...
...!
...!
EEP...
HOK
NO FUTURE
HE ENSHRINED HIS ANCESTORS...

CHNGL

CHNGG

KRIK

KRAK

PRAK

KRCH

KREK

KRK

NO FUTURE

Maximum penalty £2500

KRCH

...!
1205

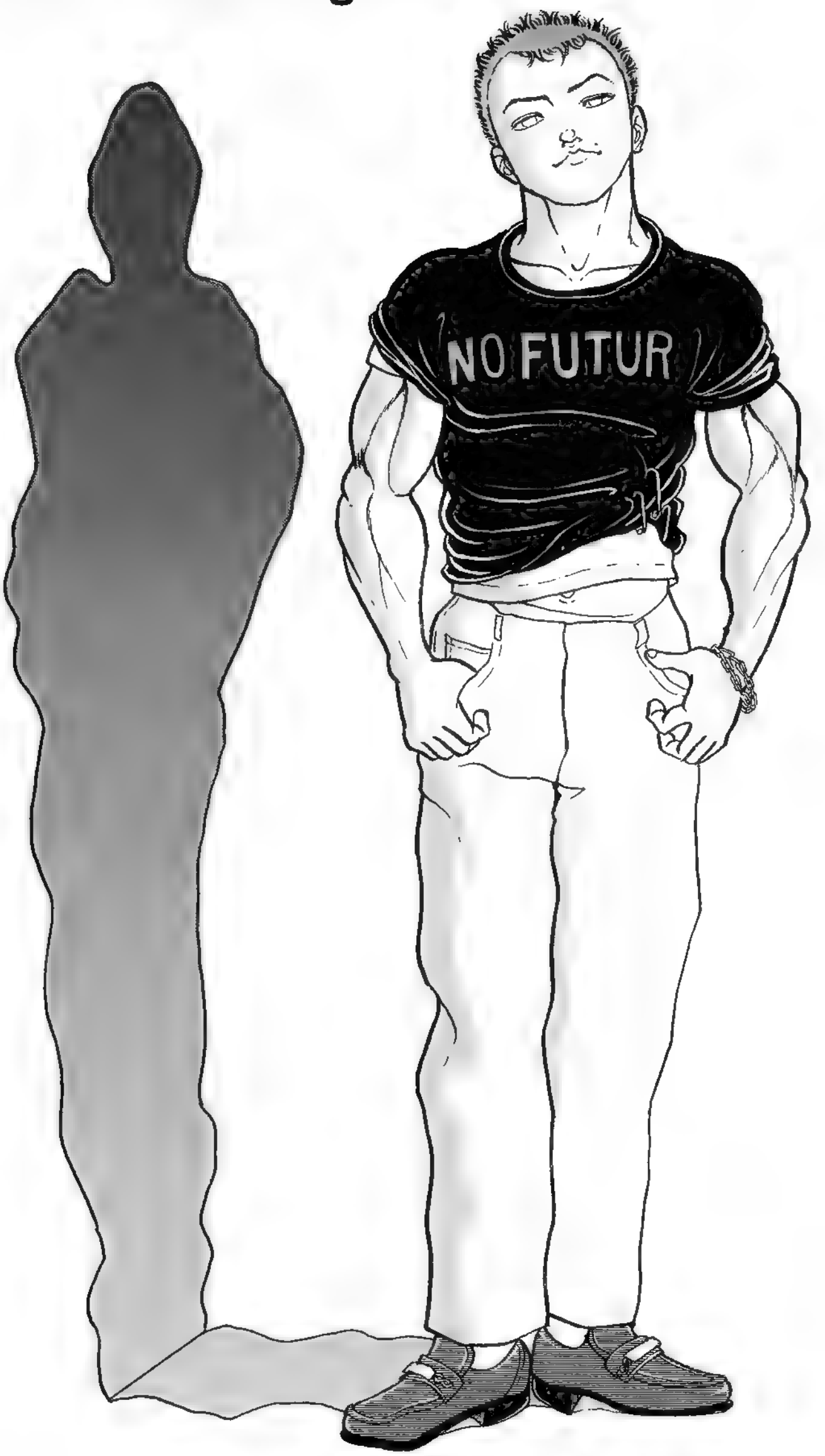
IT'S A LION VERSUS A HARE ...
YOU?
FIGHTING YUJIRO...?
NO FUTUR

AND YOU ONLY HAVE A MONTH, EH?

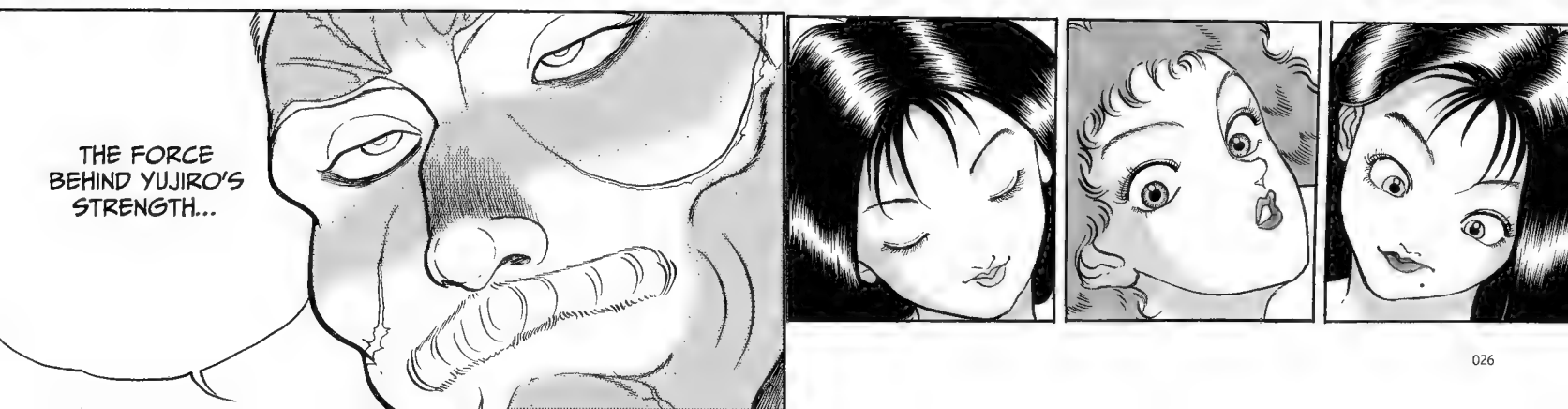
2D ROLL

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY.

#132 The Strongest Unit



IF A WHELP LIKE YOU WANTS TO GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH YUJIRO...
...THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DO IT.


THE FORCE BEHIND YUJIRO'S STRENGTH...

...IS NONE OTHER THAN HIS EGOTISM!!!

THAT
UNBELIEVABLE
SELF-CENTEREDNESS
THAT WILL NEVER ALLOW
A PERSON STRONGER
THAN HIMSELF TO EXIST
ON THE FACE OF
THIS EARTH!!!

MANY MARTIAL ARTISTS HAVE CLAIMED TO BE THE STRONGEST, BUT THEY ALL FELL BEFORE THAT MIGHTY WILL!

THIS IS VERY MUCH MY PERSONAL OPINION...

...BUT IN TERMS OF POWERFUL EGOS, HIS COULD STAND PROUDLY AMONGST THE GREATEST POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN HISTORY!

"I AM THE STRONGEST! I AM THE GREATEST!"

THE CONSTANT PUSHING OF THESE THOUGHTS— THE MOST SELFISH PERSONAL AGENDA ON EARTH— EVENTUALLY LED HIM TO THE BATTLEFIELD!!!

AFGHANISTAN, CYPRUS, MOZAMBIQUE— THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACES AT THE TIME...

OVER THERE, YUJIRO'S MARTIAL ARTS BLOSSOMED TO THEIR FULLEST.

OVER THERE, YUJIRO'S EGO GAINED ULTIMATE SATISFACTION.

YOU'LL BRING ME TO ONE OF THOSE PLACES, RIGHT? LIKE IRAN OR CAMBODIA?

NO... A DOMESTIC LOCATION WILL BE FINE.

CAPTAIN STRYDOM.

WHERE THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND A BATTLE-FIELD?!

BUT THIS IS *JAPAN*, MR. STRYDOM!

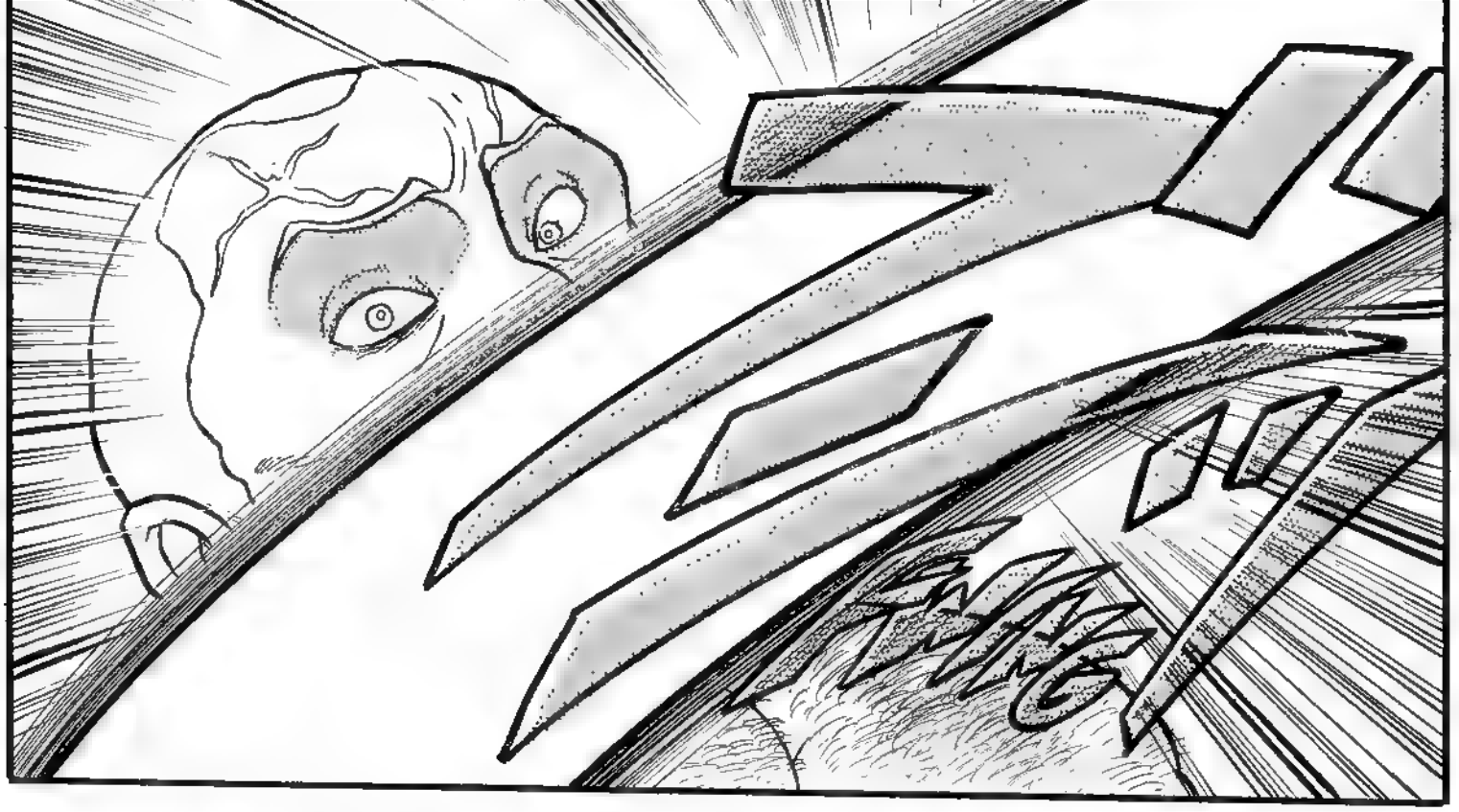
GRP

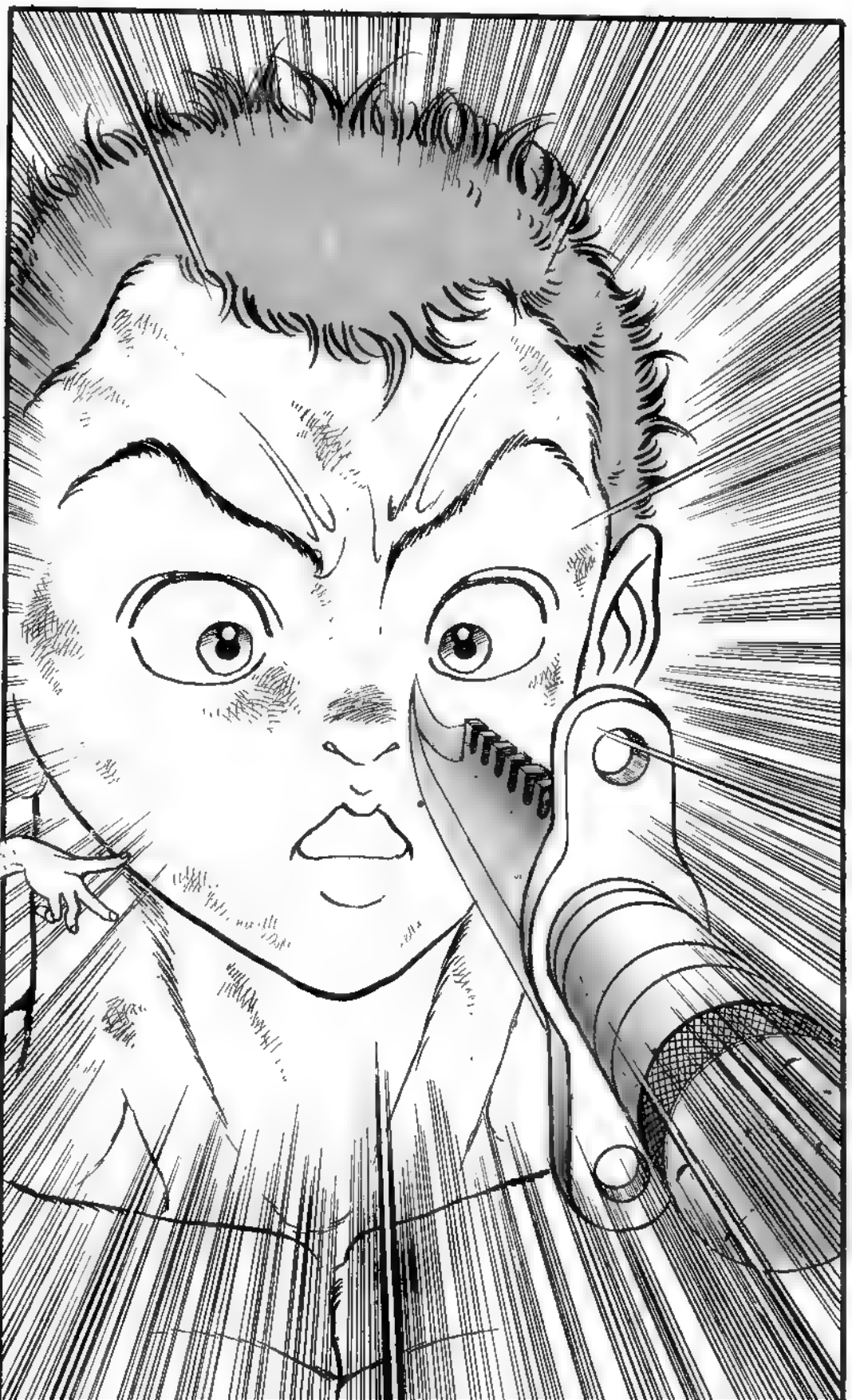
RIP

RIP

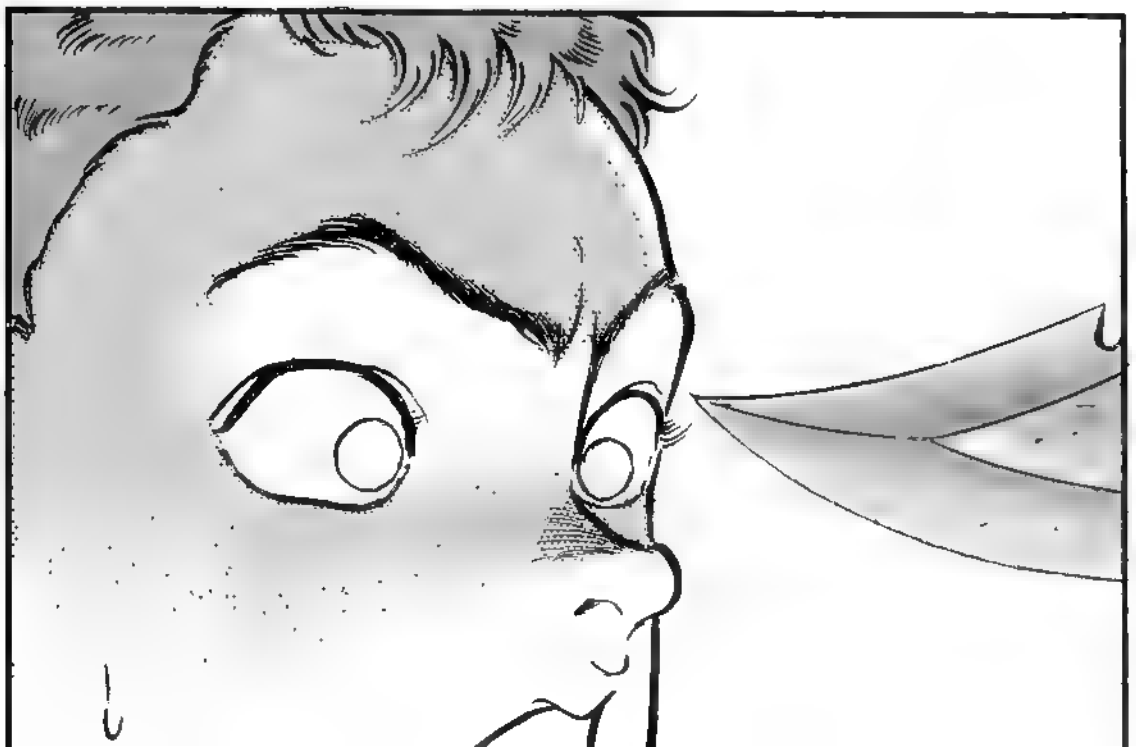
RIP

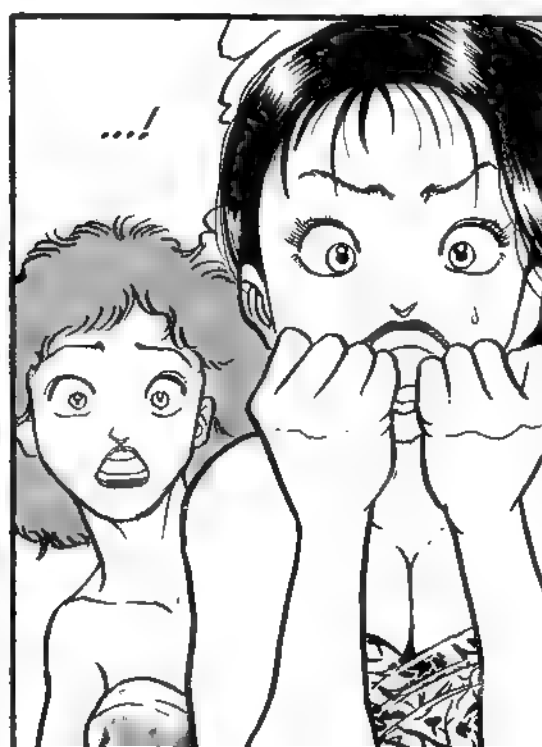
RIP


ENG!



NO FUTUR



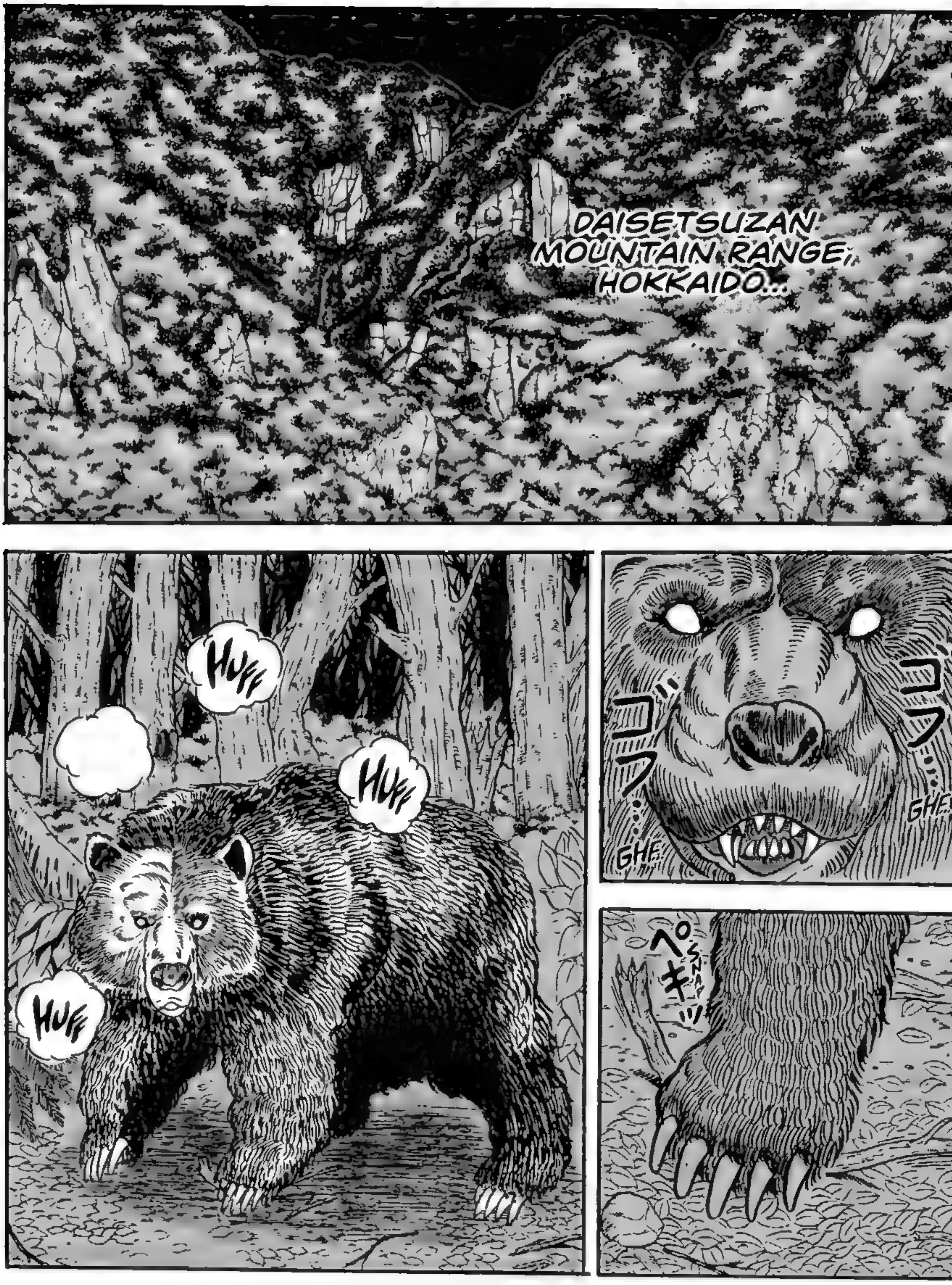

...!

GO TO HOKKAIDO.

THERE'S A PLACE WHERE THE CARNAGE RIVALS OR EVEN ***SURPASSES*** WHAT YUJIRO EXPERIENCED...

THE BATTLEFIELD YOU SEEK IS THERE.

HOKKAIDO ...


DAISETSUZAN MOUNTAIN RANGE, HOKKAIDŌ...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ゴフ…
GHF
コフ…
GHF
ペキッ
SNAP

PING

BOOM
SHWR

MAYBE THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR A KID LIKE YOU TO UNDERSTAND, BUT... BACK WHEN THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST STARTED ESCALATING, THE U.N. SENT A DEMAND TO THE JAPANESE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE...

AT FIRST, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WAS RELUCTANT SINCE THE REQUEST WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, BUT THE PRESSURE WAS OVERWHELMING AND THEY EVENTUALLY **GAVE IN!**

...pic forever renounce w
n right of the nation and the
force as means of settling int
tional disputes.
accomplish the aim of the p
graph, land, sea, and air force
er war potential, will never b
The right of belligeren
will not

...!

NO FUTUR

OF COURSE, THEY KEPT THE PAPERS FROM REPORTING ON IT.

...THEY SAID "DISPATCH YOUR STRONGEST UNIT."

YES, JUST FIVE, BUT DESPITE BEING THE COUNTRY'S SMALLEST OPERATIONAL UNIT, THEY ARE ITS *STRONGEST!!!*

JAPAN HANDPICKED SEVERAL PARA-TROOPERS TO BECOME THEIR ONLY *MILITARY UNIT* COMPOSED OF *FIVE MEN!*

THE UNIT WAS FORMED JUST LAST YEAR AND THEY ARE CURRENTLY WRAPPING UP THEIR FINAL TRAINING EXERCISES IN HOKKAIDO.

*REGIMENT: 400 SOLDIERS

THOSE FIVE COULD RIVAL AN ENTIRE REGIMENT*.

K-CHK K-CHK

BLOOD AND URINE ARE PRECIOUS SOURCES OF HYDRATION... DON'T SPILL A SINGLE DROP...
HEH HEH....
THUD

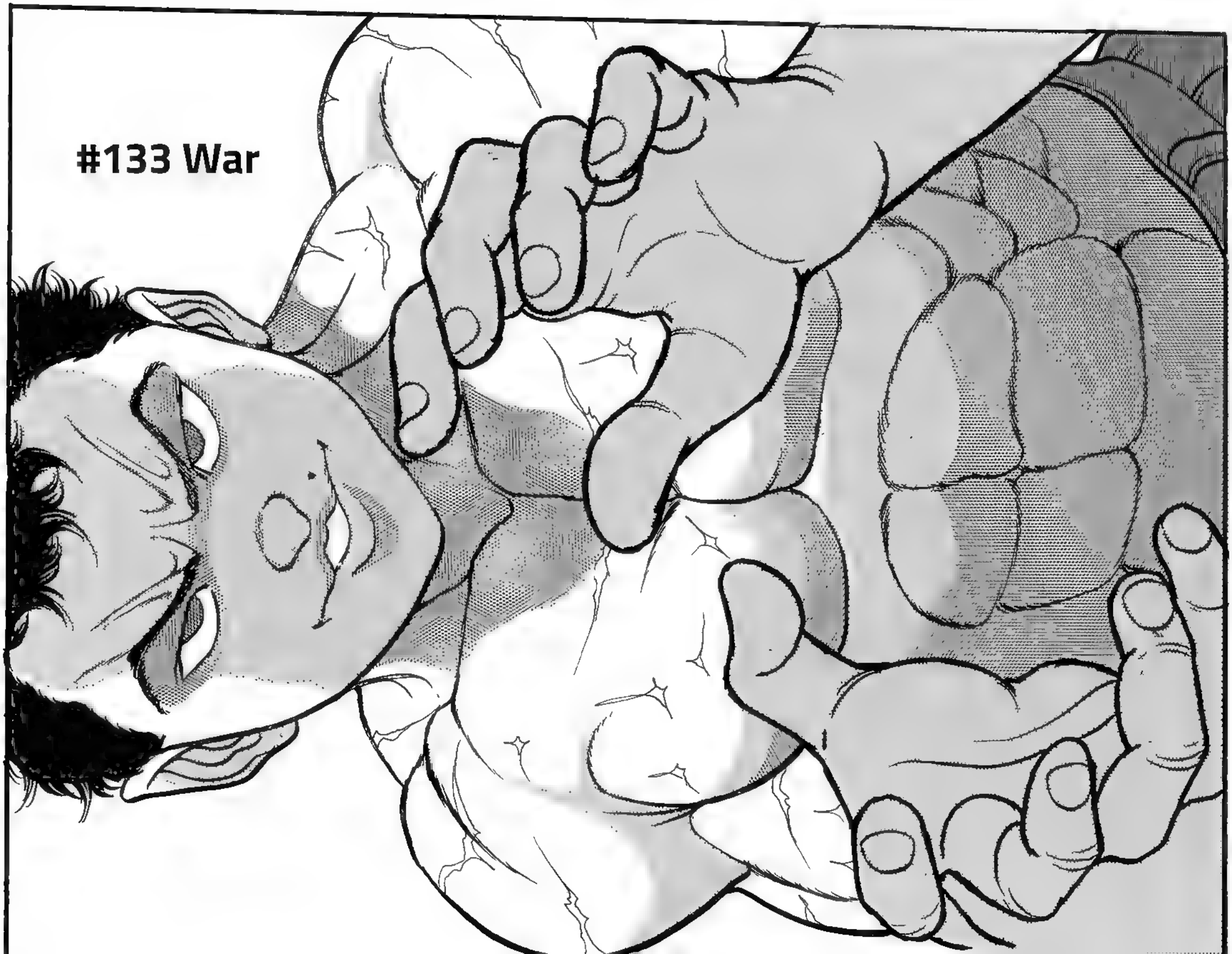
SLURP

SLURP...

IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE WE LAST HYDRATED ...

GULP...

IT'S BEEN 131 HOURS SINCE WE GOT SOME PROTEIN...


#133 War

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW ME?

J.G.S.D.F. NORTHERN ARMY GENERAL INSPECTOR GENERAL *MASANOBU KOBAYASHI*

I IMPLORE YOU...

I'M AFRAID SO.

DRIP

SIR!

OFFICE OF J.G.S.D.F. NORTHERN ARMY GENERAL

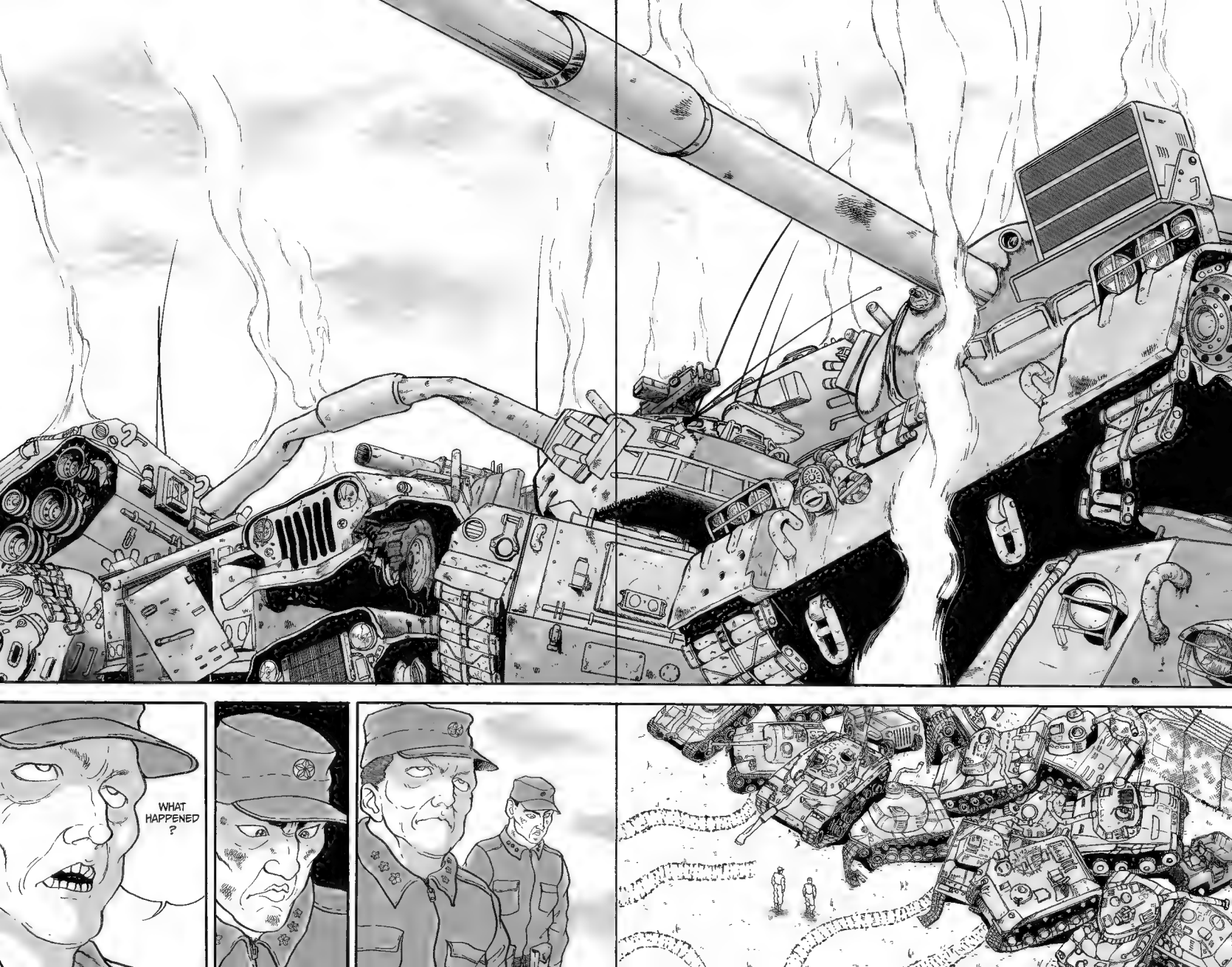
...PLEASE, QUICKLY GO AND SEE THE SITUATION FOR YOURSELF!

J.G.S.D.F. NORTHERN ARMY, ARMORED DIVISION, DIVISION COMMANDER *HIKOICHI TANUMA*

LEAD THE WAY...

ゴッ KLK

カッ TAK


WHAT HAPPENED ?

...AT THE HANDS OF JUST FIVE MEN!

SOLDIER! I ASKED YOU *WHAT HAPPENED ?!*

THE 001 ARMORED DIVISION ...

...WAS DECIMATED...

ARE YOU SAYING AN ARMORED UNIT COMPOSED OF FIFTY TANKS...

I'M AFRAID SO, SIR!

...WAS TROUNCED BY JUST *FIVE* ***UNARMED MEN?***

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CREW?

HUFF

HUFF

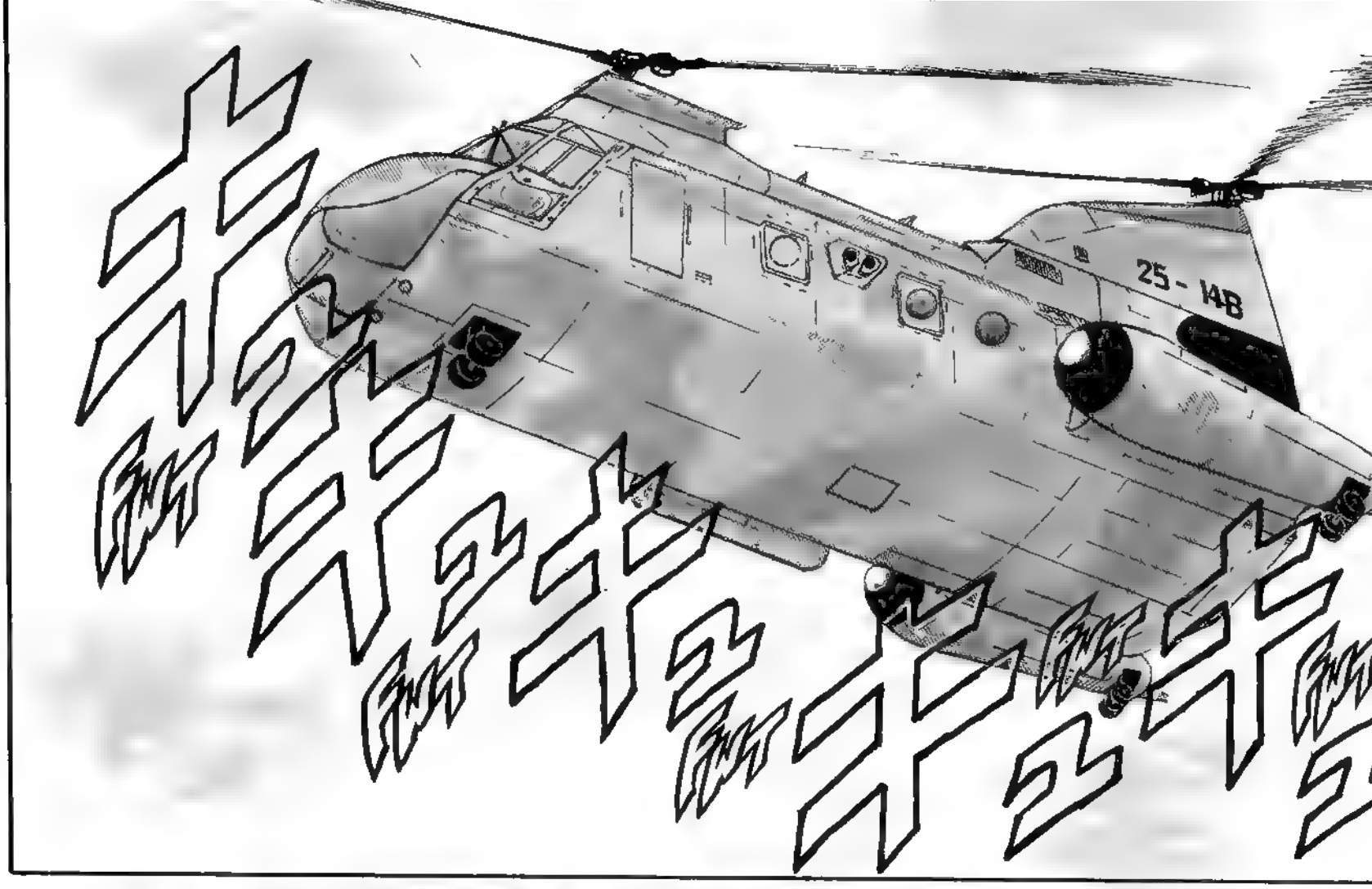
HUFF

URGH ...

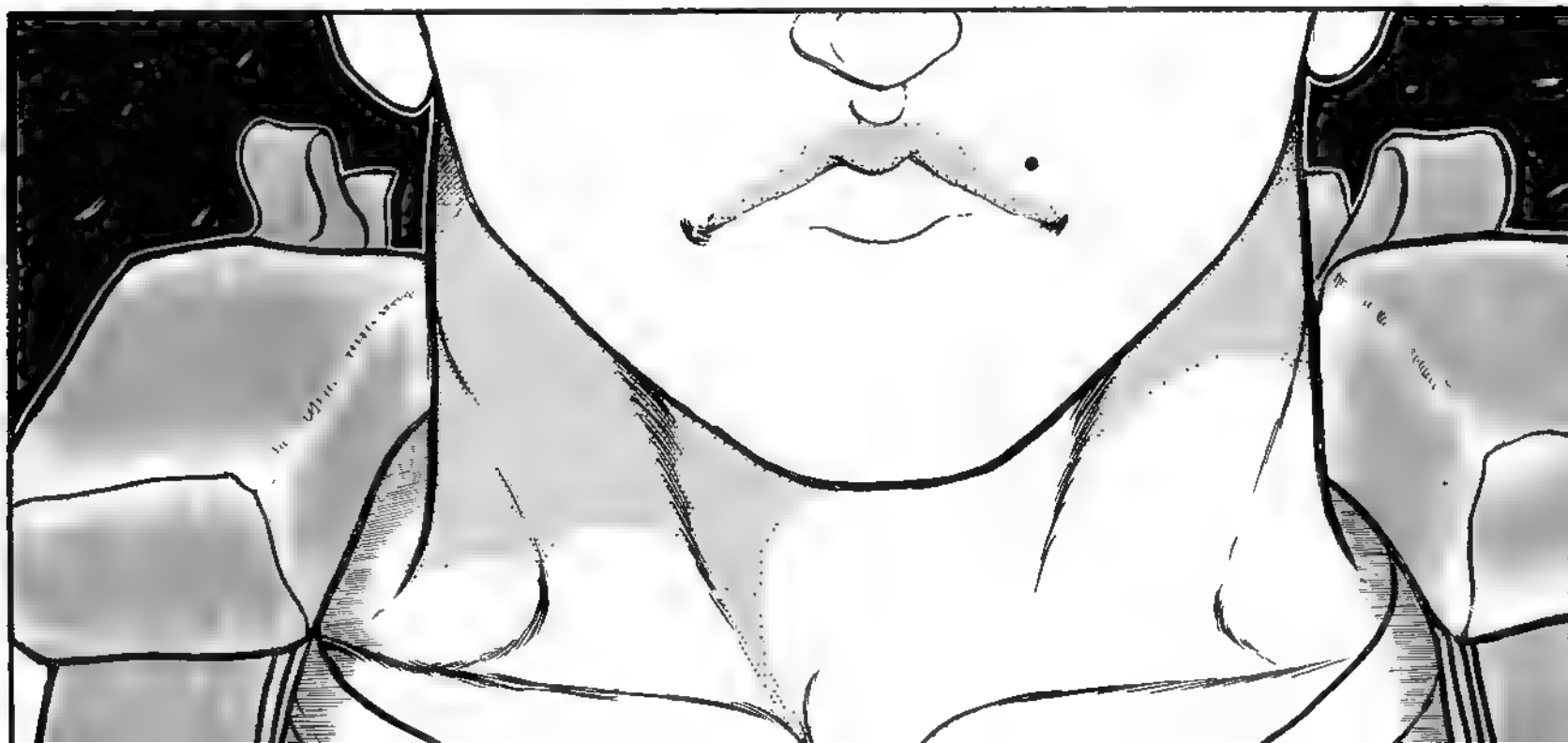
I'M SORRY TO SAY, GENERAL...

CAN YOU EVEN CALL THIS TRAINING, SIR?!

...I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WOULD ALLOW THIS.


25 - 148

OPEN



GRIP...
GRIP
GRIP...

ARE THESE THINGS SUPPOSED TO BE THIS TIGHT?

WHEW!

YOUR LIFE IS IN ITS HANDS.

DON'T COMPLAIN.

GRIN...

IT'S NOTHING BUT MOUN-TAINS ...

TEN MINUTES TO DROP!
THOUGH I HEAR THERE'S A ONE-PERCENT CHANCE IT *WON'T OPEN.*

WELP... LET'S DO THIS!
ONE LAST THING, BAKI...
THERE'S ONLY FIVE OF THEM, BUT THEY'RE PROS, THE BEST OF THE BEST.
THEY'LL KNOW YOU'RE HERE THE MOMENT YOU JUMP!
DON'T LEAVE THE AREA ONCE YOU LAND!

EASE YOUR WAY OUT!

KA-WOOM

IF YOU JUMP, YOU'LL HIT YOUR HEAD ON THE CEILING!

COURSE SET!
COURSE SET!
COURSE SET!

YOU'LL FIND THEM HERE.
DROP!!!
NOW GET OUT THERE AND KICK SOME ASS!!!

ブチッ!
SNAP

...THAT THEY WERE PROHIBITED FROM KILLING ANYONE, BUT THEY COULD CAUSE AS MANY INJURIES OR DESTROY AS MANY TANKS AS THEY WANTED!

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TOLD THOSE FIVE...

SO THIS *ISN'T* REALLY TRAINING...

...IT'S A WAR BETWEEN *US* AND *THEM!*

AND THOSE FIVE ARE CAPABLE OF PULLING IT OFF.

#134 Unseen Enemies!!

I THOUGHT IT'D BE THE SAME SPEED AS TAKING AN ELEVATOR, BUT...

PLUS, THERE'S NOTHING BUT FOREST BELOW ME ...!

...

...THIS IS FAST!

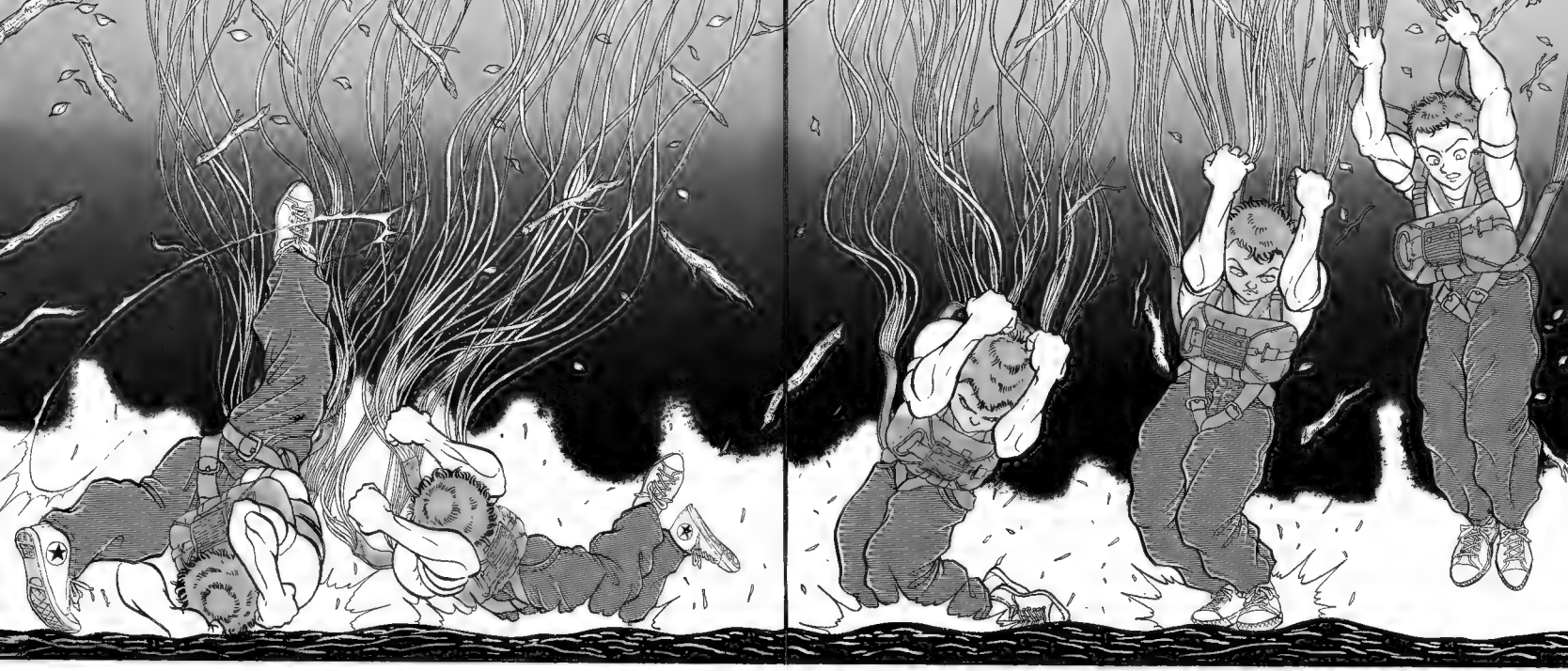
I CAN'T SEE THE GROUND ...!!!

...!

バキ KRAK

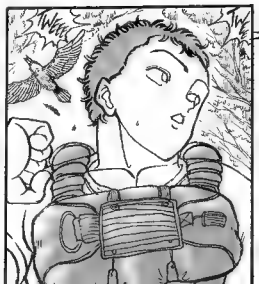
バキ KRAK

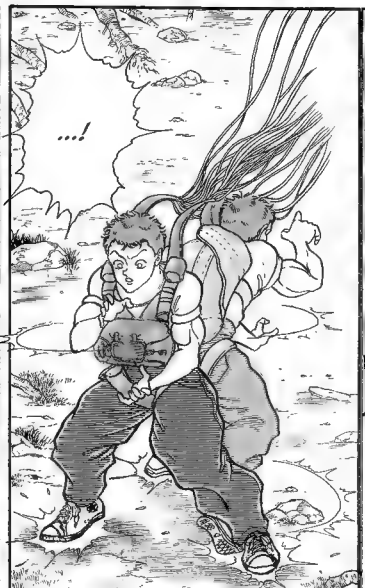
バキ KRAK



WELP
....

....!




....!

...

TO THINK THAT 400 OFFICERS COULDN'T OVERCOME A MERE FIVE-MAN CELL...

THAT BEING SAID, THIS IS PATHETIC...

HM? COMMANDER TANUMA?

I MUST INTERJECT, GENERAL!

PLUS, WE ALLOWED FIFTY TANKS TO BE DESTROYED! THIS IS A COMPLETE DISASTER!!!

IF WE FACED ENEMIES WE COULD SEE, WE'D KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO CRUSH THEM!

IF WE FACED ENEMIES WE COULD HEAR, WE'D KNOW JUST HOW TO AP-PROACH THEM!

...WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO DO AGAINST ENEMIES THAT CAN NEITHER BE SEEN OR HEARD?

HOWEVER, GENERAL ...!

THEY... CAN'T BE SEEN, YOU SAY?

WE WERE NEVER TRAINED TO FACE OPPOSITION LIKE THIS!!!

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO FIGHT AN ENEMY LIKE THAT, SIR!!!

WHAT!?

THE ONLY REASON WE KNOW THEY EVEN ACTUALLY EXIST IS BE-CAUSE WE WERE AT-TACKED!

NO ONE IN UNIT 001 EVEN CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THEM!

HMPH...
MAAAN, THIS SUCKS...

TWEE

TWEE TWEE

LET'S SEE HERE...

...THERE'S NOT A SINGLE SOUL AROUND...

EVEN IF I WANTED TO FIGHT ...

MAN, I CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT. THIS MAP IS NOTHIN' BUT *LINES*...

HOLD ON... I DROPPED NEAR A SWAMP, SO...

OH... THAT'S WHAT THIS POND LOOKS LIKE.

THIS IS ACTUALLY REALLY SIMPLE! ♡

SWOOP

ドオン!!
DMF

ガガガ

TWEE TWEE

TWEE

TWEE

TWEE TWEE

FHOOM

EE? EULGE..

BSHH

...IT AIN'T NOTHING BUT A GODDAMN BOY SCOUT.
WITH THAT PARACHUTE, I ASSUMED IT'D BE AN ARMY RANGER DROPPING IN, BUT...
IT'S A KID.

THAT WAS A SURPRISE ...

BM-SKR

GWAH!

BASHOOM

I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T NEED IT OUTSIDE LIVE COMBAT.

HE MADE ME USE THIS CAESIUM GAS.

HEH HEH.

WE CAN'T LET HIM GO NOW...

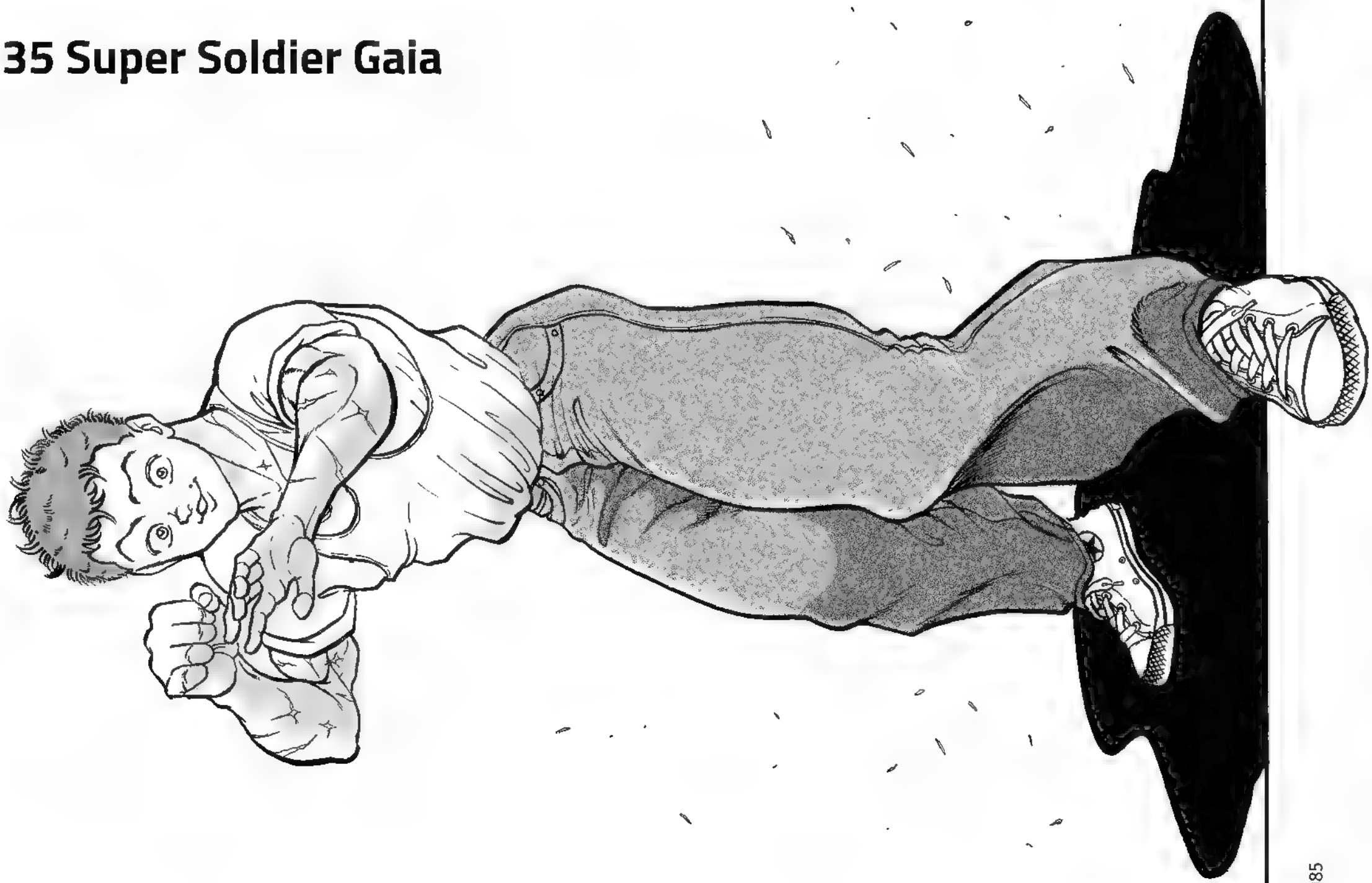
HE WOUND UP SEEING OUR FACES...

DO WE KILL AND BURY HIM OUT HERE?

EITHER WAY, THIS PLACE IS OUTSIDE THE LAW.

MAYBE BREAK HIM DOWN FOR RATIONS?

#135 Super Soldier Gaia



I'D SAY HE WEIGHS ABOUT SIXTY-FIVE KILOS, GIVE OR TAKE.

HE'S ALMOST ALL MUSCLE AND BARELY ANY BODY FAT.

THIS KID IS IN GOOD SHAPE.

WE COULD MAKE SOME GREAT RATIONS OUT OF HIM.

...!

WAIT...
I-I GOT CUT...!!!
DRAINING HIS BLOOD NOW WOULD BE A WASTE.

WE JUST HAVE TO LEAVE HIM FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS. ONCE HIS BODY EXPELS ITS IMPACTED FECES, HIS MEAT WILL STINK LESS.
モグ
モグ
OMF
OMF
IF WE'RE GETTING MEAT, WE SHOULD GET THE *PRIME CUTS*...
PEH
THEY'RE PLANNING TO KILL ME?!

IT'S AN OINTMENT KNEADED FROM MEDICINAL HERBS. IT'S PRIMO STUFF— STOPS THE BLEEDING EVEN IF YOUR TORSO'S BEEN SHREDDED.

...!!!

GIVE IT HALF A DAY AND THAT WOUND WILL FULLY CLOSE UP...

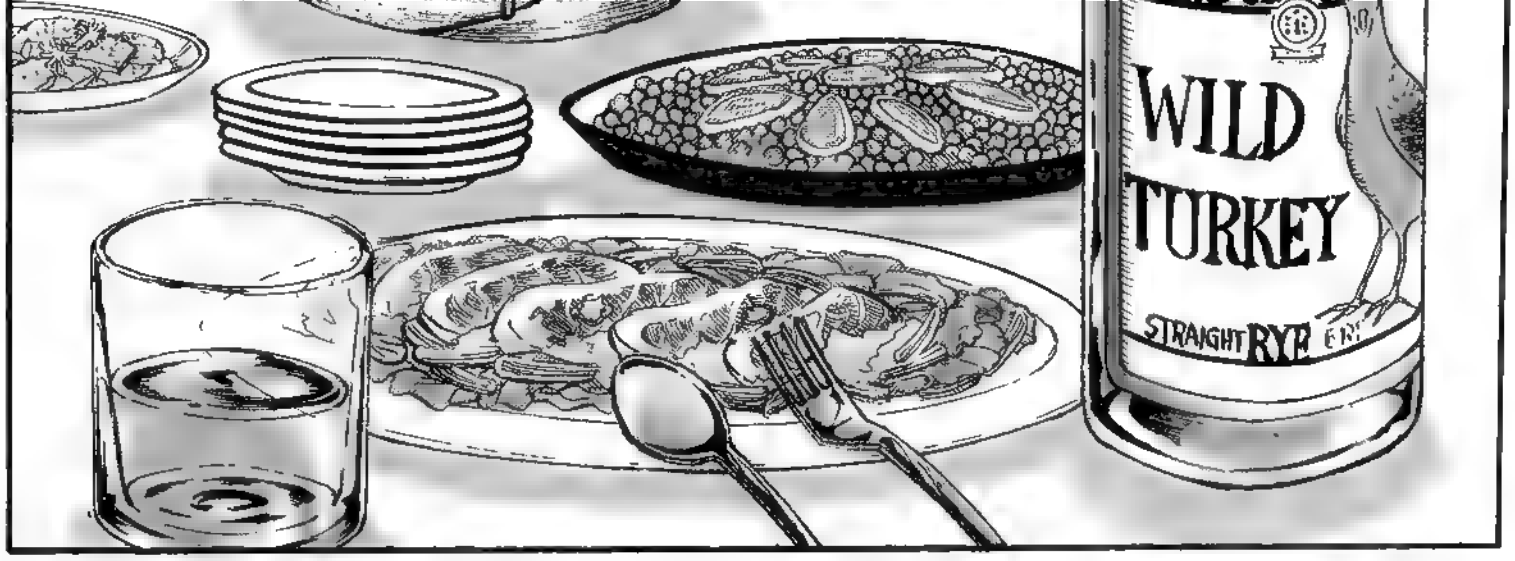
NOW, BE A GOOD BOY...

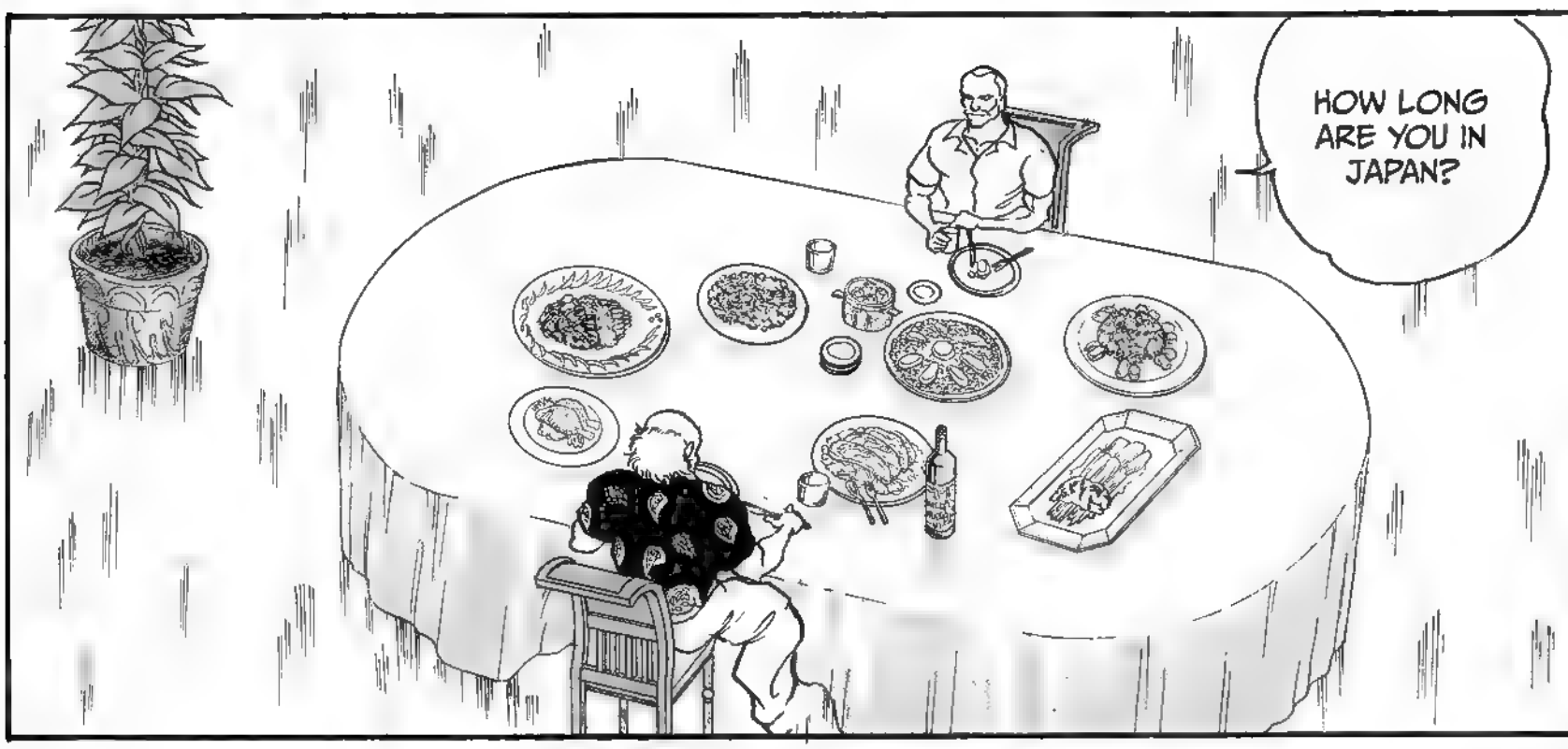
JUST ONE MORE MONTH...

THE FIVE OF US HAVE ALREADY DECIMATED THE J.G.S.D.F. NORTHERN ARMY.

THE ONLY WAY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE COULD STOP US IN THESE LAST THIRTY DAYS IS IF THEY CALLED IN *GODZILLA* OR *KING GHIDORAH*...

IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME, SIR.
WELCOME! DOING WELL, MR. STRYDOM?


WILD
TURKEY
STRAIGHT RYE


HOW LONG ARE YOU IN JAPAN?

WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SETTLE INTO THE RETIRED LIFE...

GLUG...

RETIRED LIFE?! YOU, SIR?!

PFFT!

KEH HEH...

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR YOU UTTER SUCH UNFITTING WORDS, SIR!

YOU DESERVE TO DIE NO PLACE ELSE BUT THE BATTLEFIELD.

YOU ARE RENOWNED AS A SOLDIER AMONG SOLDIERS!!!

SOLDIER AMONG SOLDIERS, EH?

WELL, THAT HITS A NERVE...

WHAT ABOUT AS A *SOL-DIER?*

AS A COMMANDER, PERHAPS SO...

YUJIRO HANMA, PERHAPS...?

I PREFER TO *PICK* WHO I FIGHT.

...

AND... ONE *MORE* PERSON...

I CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT I STAND NO CHANCE AGAINST *YUJIRO HANMA,* A.K.A. *OGRE.*

OHO... INTRIGUING ...

Nichols

I SENT OGRE'S SON TO HOKKAIDO AS A SOLDIER.

NOW WE JUST HAVE TO SEE IF HE CAN BEAT *THOSE FIVE...*

THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE, I SEE.

HE WANTED TRAINING THAT RIVALS WHAT HIS FATHER EXPERIENCED ...

Nichols

D

SIR...

YES, THE FIVE THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS EXPERIMENTING WITH...

...

YOU SAID *FIVE*, RIGHT?

...

...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

...IS THE ONLY PERSON *BESIDES* OGRE THAT I CAN'T BEAT.

AMONG THOSE FIVE...

STRYDOM...

DO YOU KNOW WHO *GAIA* IS?

HE'S KNOWN AS *MR. WAR.*

AND NOT EVEN A *NUKE* COULD KILL HIM.

HE'S STILL ALIVE ...?

HE...

YOU CAN SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW GAIA.

WHEN IT COMES TO HIS CAMOUFLAGE AND KNIFE TECHNIQUES...

YOU JUMPED THE GUN, STRYDOM.

BUT THAT BOY DOESN'T HAVE OGRE'S BLOOD FOR NOTHING.

SHNK

...NOT EVEN OGRE WOULD BE GUARANTEED TO GET AWAY UNSCATHED...!!!

SHNK

SHNK

...

YOU'RE STILL NEARBY...

BZZZ...

PUCH

KRAK

I'M RIGHT HERE !!!

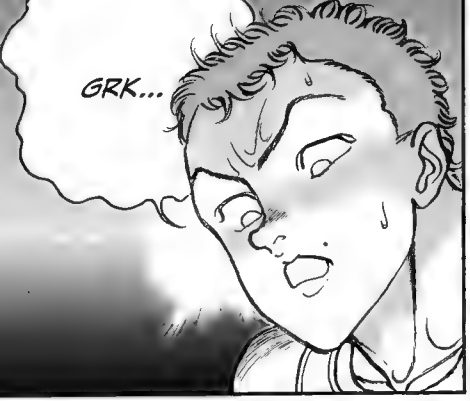
!!!
...

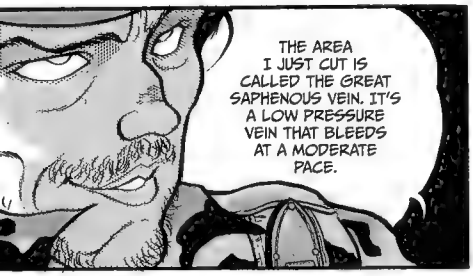
THIS TIME, I'M *NOT* GONNA STOP THE BLEEDING...

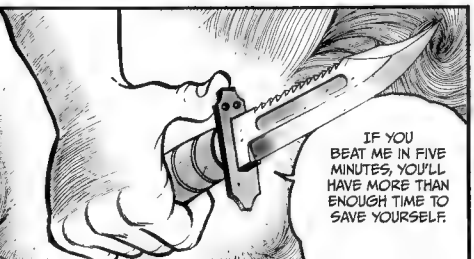
IF YOU RAN, YOU MIGHT'VE SAVED YOURSELF.

KEH HEH...

#136 The Sharpest Edge

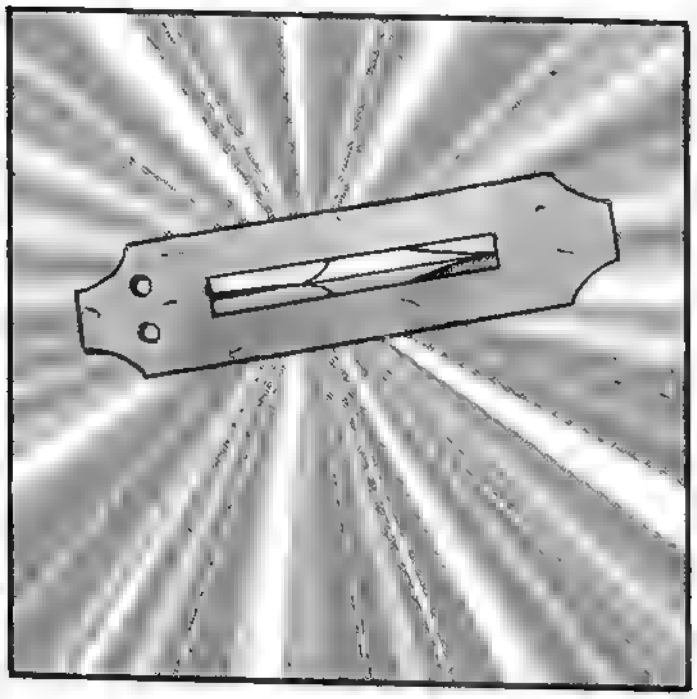

GRK...

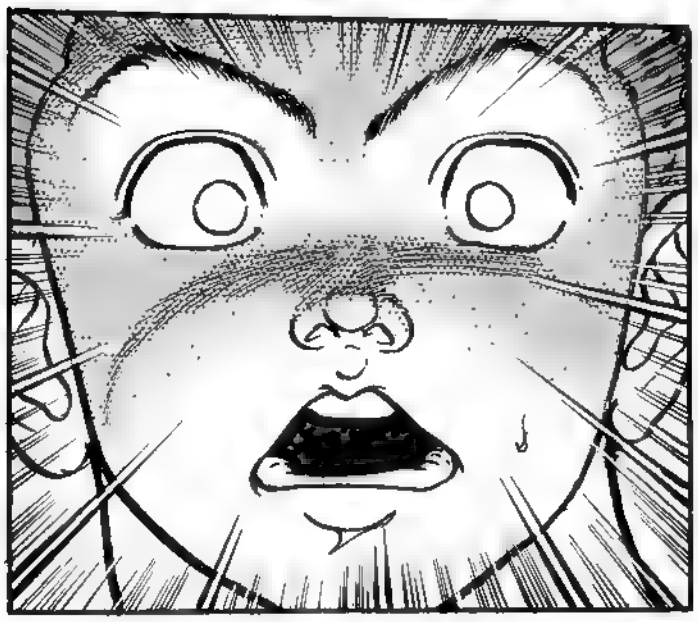

THE AREA I JUST CUT IS CALLED THE GREAT SAPHENOUS VEIN. IT'S A LOW PRESSURE VEIN THAT BLEEDS AT A MODERATE PACE.


IF YOU BEAT ME IN FIVE MINUTES, YOU'LL HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO SAVE YOURSELF.

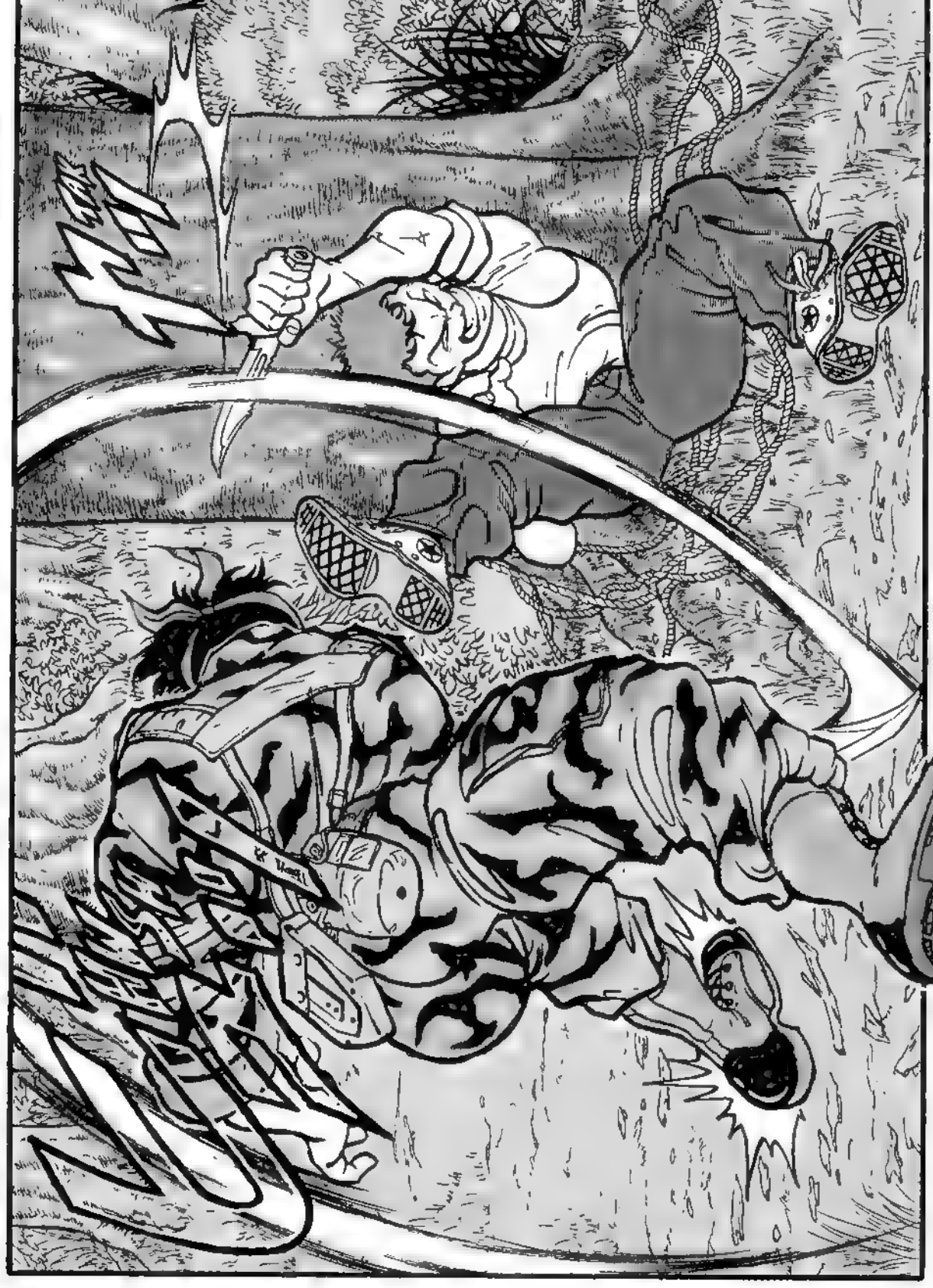
I'M GONNA HAVE SOME FUN WITH YOU, BOY.
...!!!

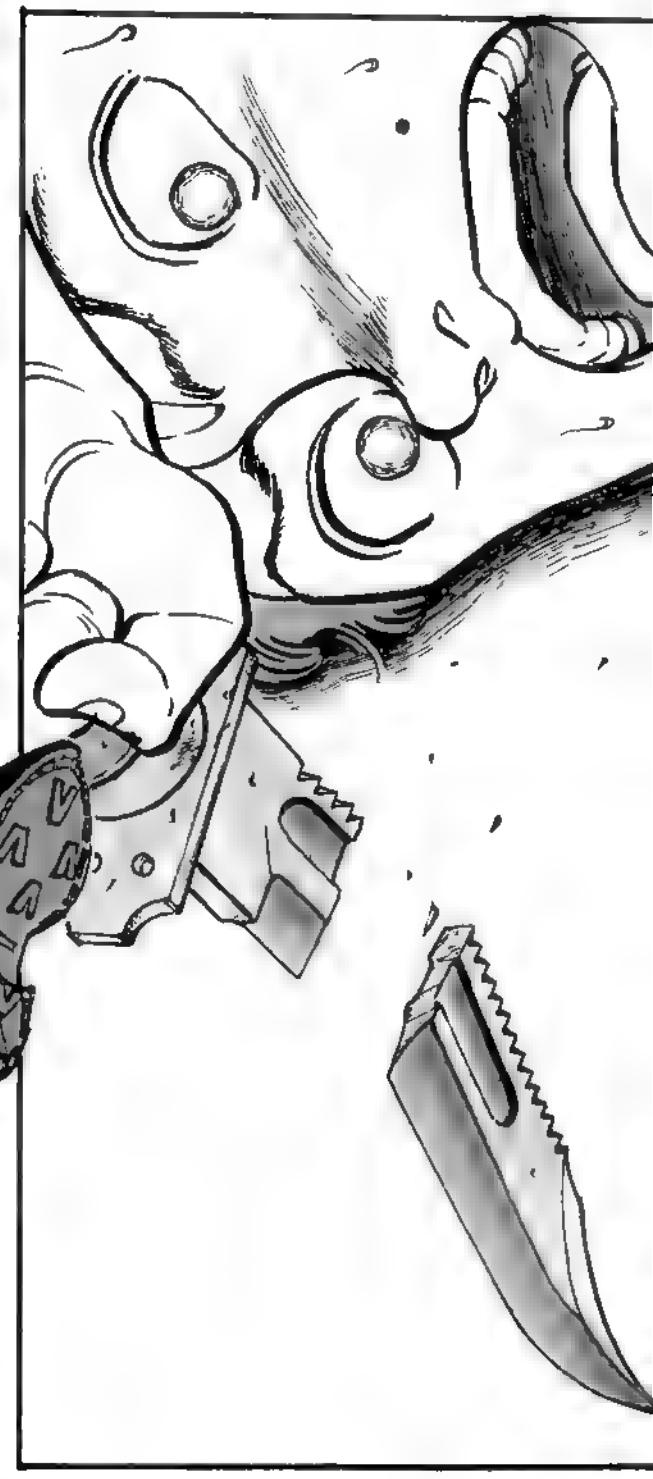
チャキ
CHK





GOOD EYE !!!





THIS KNIFE HAS THE SHARPEST EDGE IN THE WORLD.

SHE'S A REAL BEAUT— I HAD HER CUSTOM MADE BY A SMITH FROM SEKI, THE PLACE KNOWN FOR THE ART OF SWORD-SMITHING.

THE WEIGHT OF A NATA HATCHET ...

SLICE...

...!

...WITH THE EDGE OF A RAZOR...

SHISH...

SHISH...

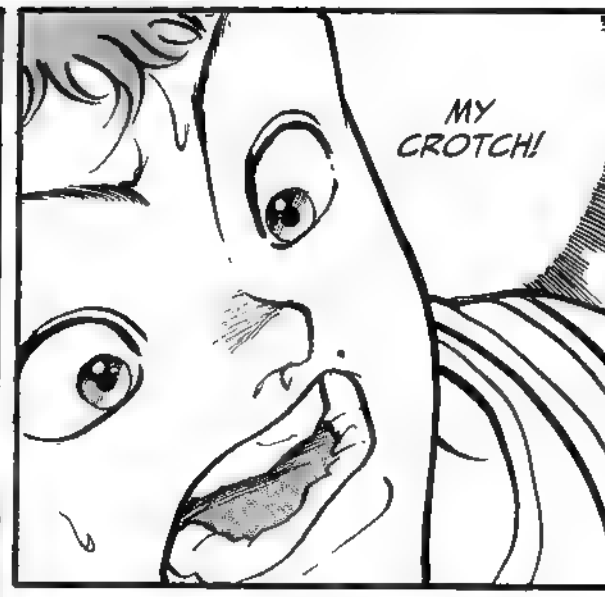
AM I HUNK NOW OR WHAT?
WHPSH

MY CAROTID ARTERY! !!!
SHOOF

WHSH

WHP

WRAK


MY CROTCH!

BAP

...!!!

FIGHAK

DIDN'T FOLLOW THROUGH ENOUGH, BOY.

HE'S DRAWN TO ALL MY VITAL POINTS LIKE A MAGNET!

IF YOU STEPPED IN A FEW CENTIME-TERS DEEPER, THEN I COULD HAVE SLICED YOUR WRIST CLEAN OFF..

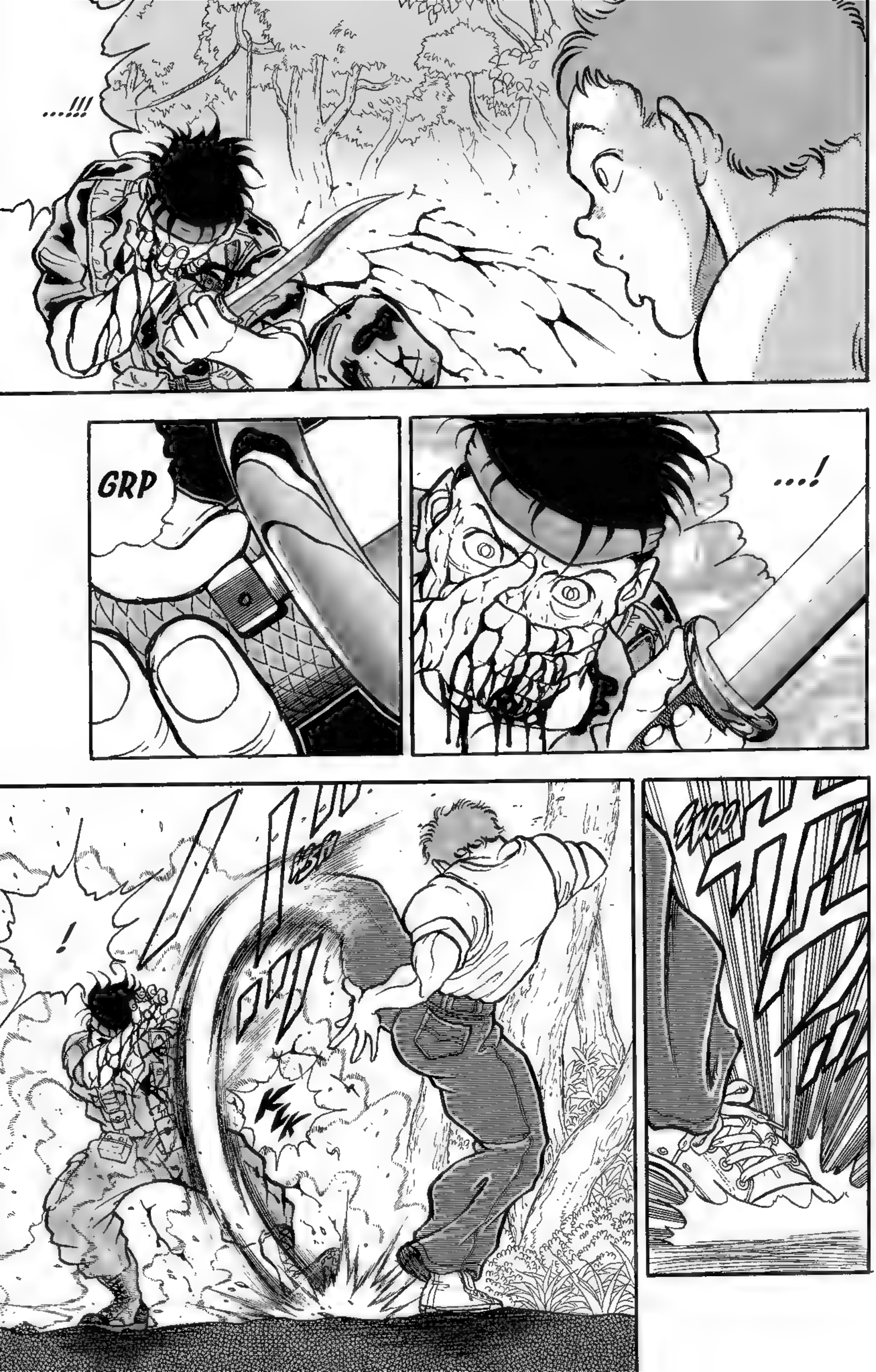
IF YOU WANT MY WRISTS SO BADLY...

PEH!

...THEN YOU CAN...

!!!
YEAH, AS IF, YOU...
...HAVE THEM!!!

...VEIN-
LOVIN'
FREAK
!!!

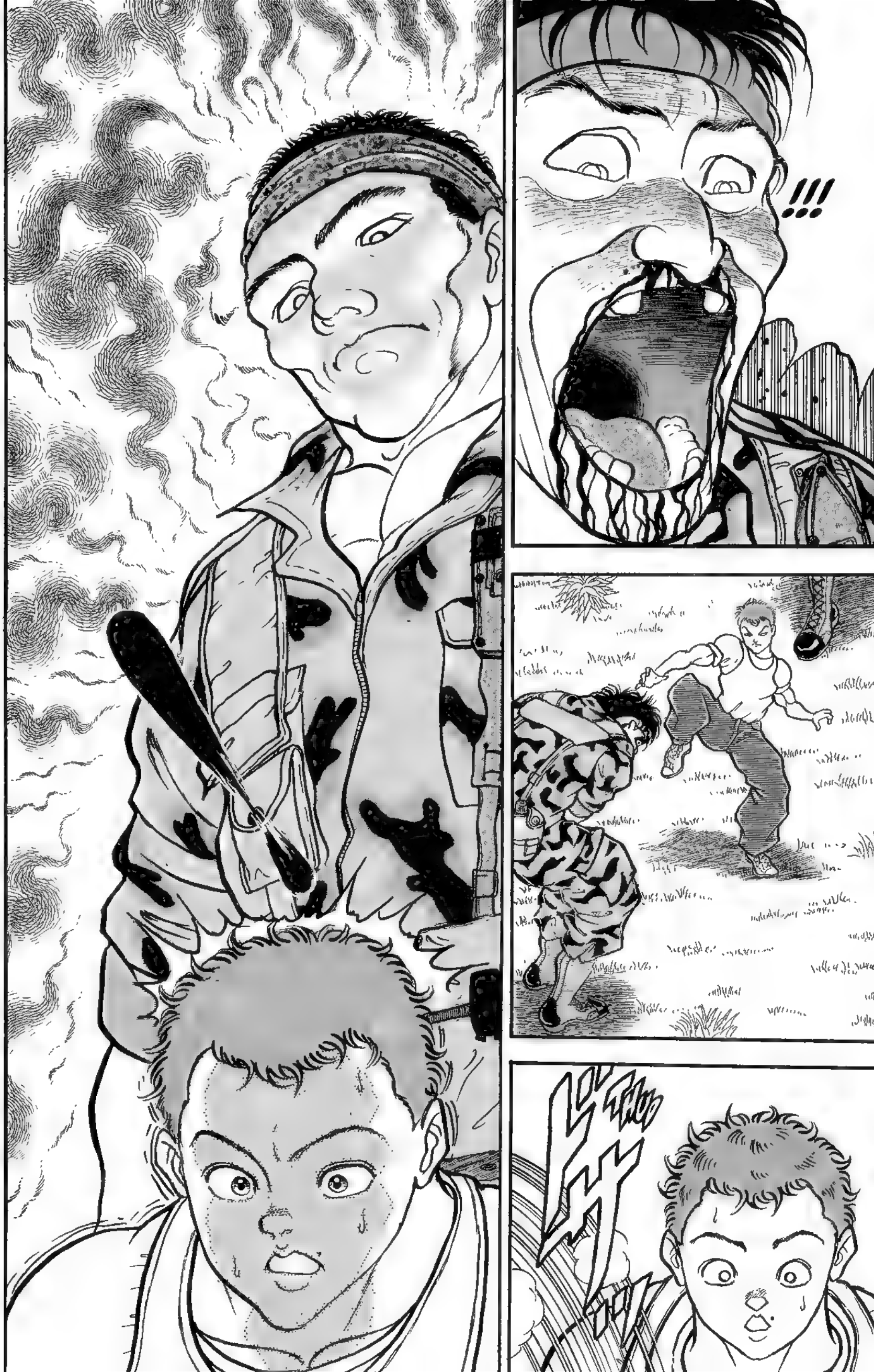

...!!!
GRP
...!
!
KWK
ZWOO

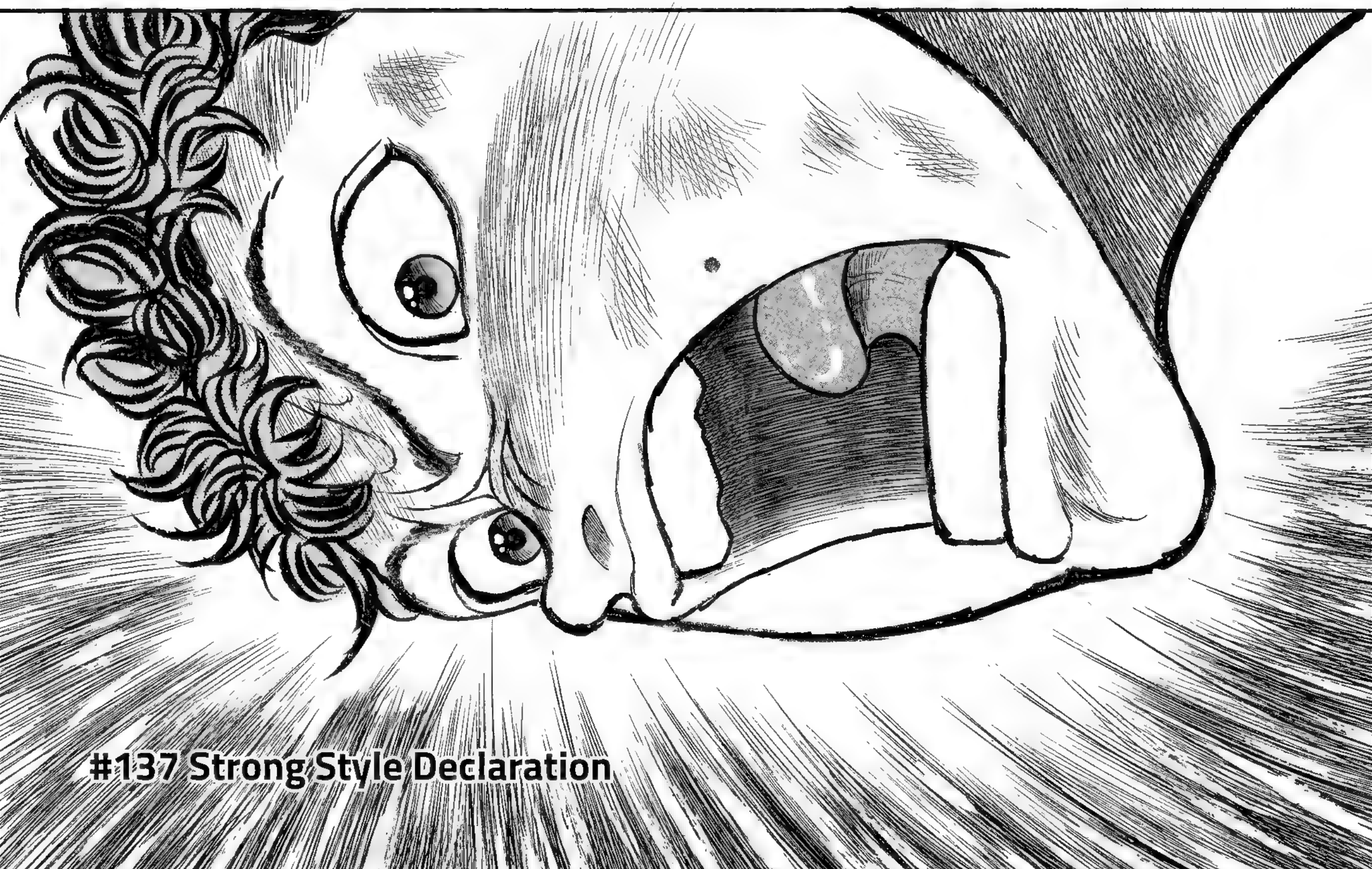
*A KNIFE WITH A PROJECTILE BLADE USED BY THE FORMER SOVIET UNION ARMY'S SPECIAL FORCES.

YOU'RE *NOT* TURNING THIS AROUND ...

YOUR *SADISTIC* PERSONALITY ENDED UP HELPING ME.

SLAMP





#137 Strong Style Declaration

WHOA!

WHOOSH

BLAGOOM
グラ…
WOBBL…
TH-THIS GUY...
SHOO
SKRK
チャッ
…!
WHEN DID HE GET BEHIND ME …?!
…

...BUT HE DIDN'T GO DOWN!!!

PLUS, I HIT HIM FULL-FORCE WITH BOTH LEGS....

SOME-THING'S COMING!

SHF...

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT GAIA IS A SUPREME EXPERT AT MILITARY HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

...IS WHAT MAKES MILITARY HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT SO SCARY TO BEGIN WITH.

...!!!

THE HEARTLESS NATURE OF HIS UNARMED TECHNIQUES ...

HEH HEH...

EVEN OGRE'S SON HAS TO UNDERGO THIS BAPTISM...

AFTER ALL, THE CONCEPT OF FAIR PLAY ON THE BATTLEFIELD IS NOTHING BUT A *VICE.*

TUNK

THAT...

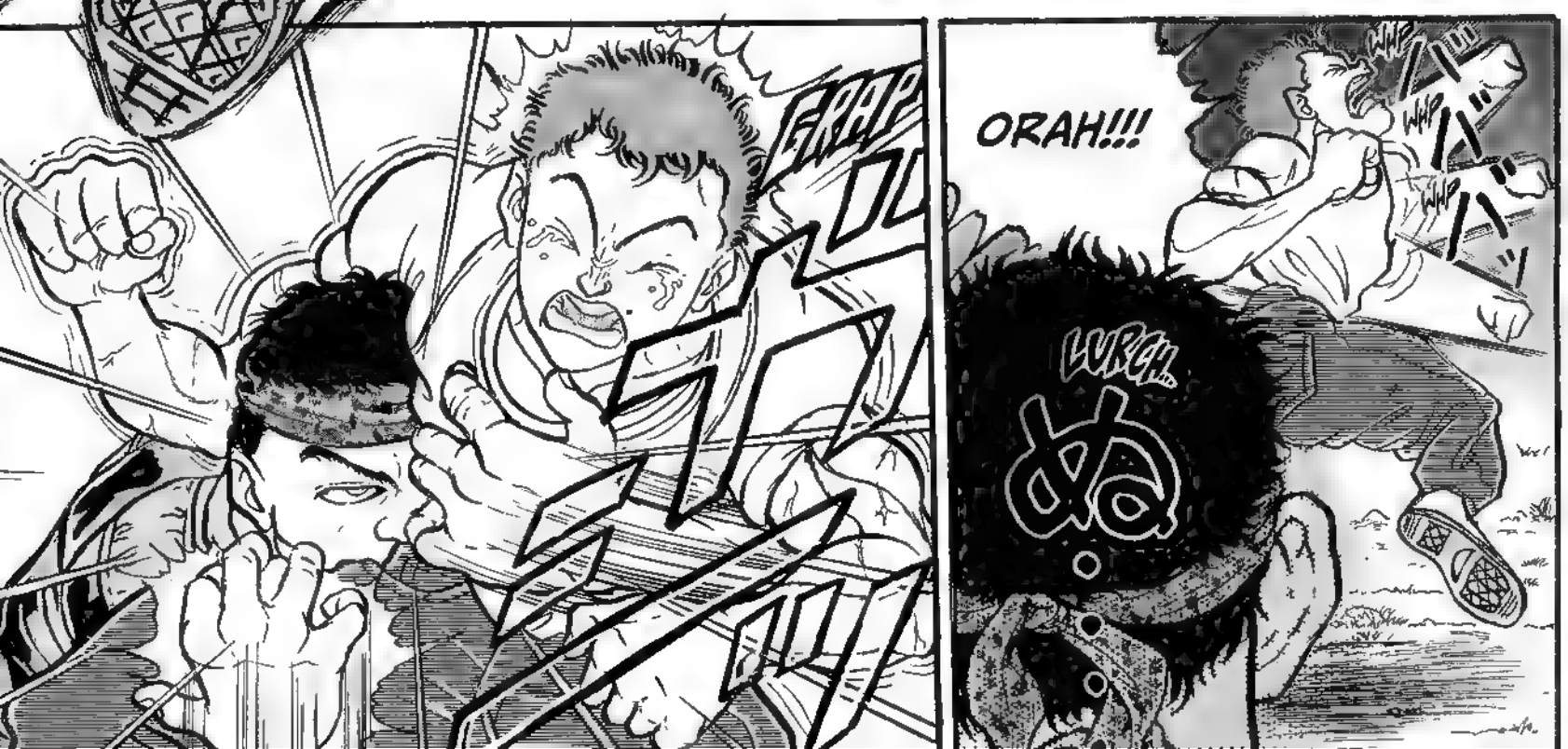
THAT'S NO FAIR, DAMMIT!

WHFF

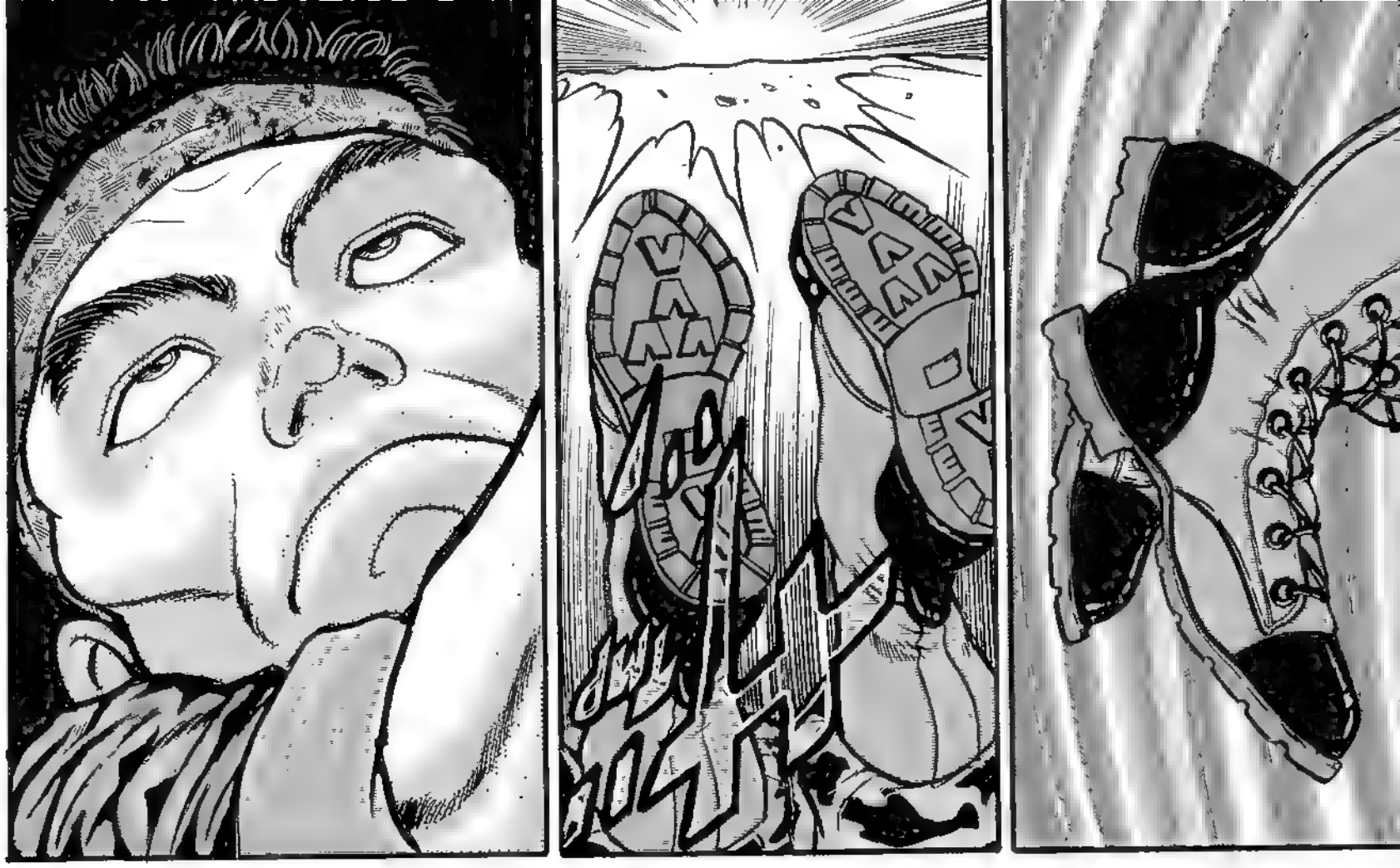
WSH

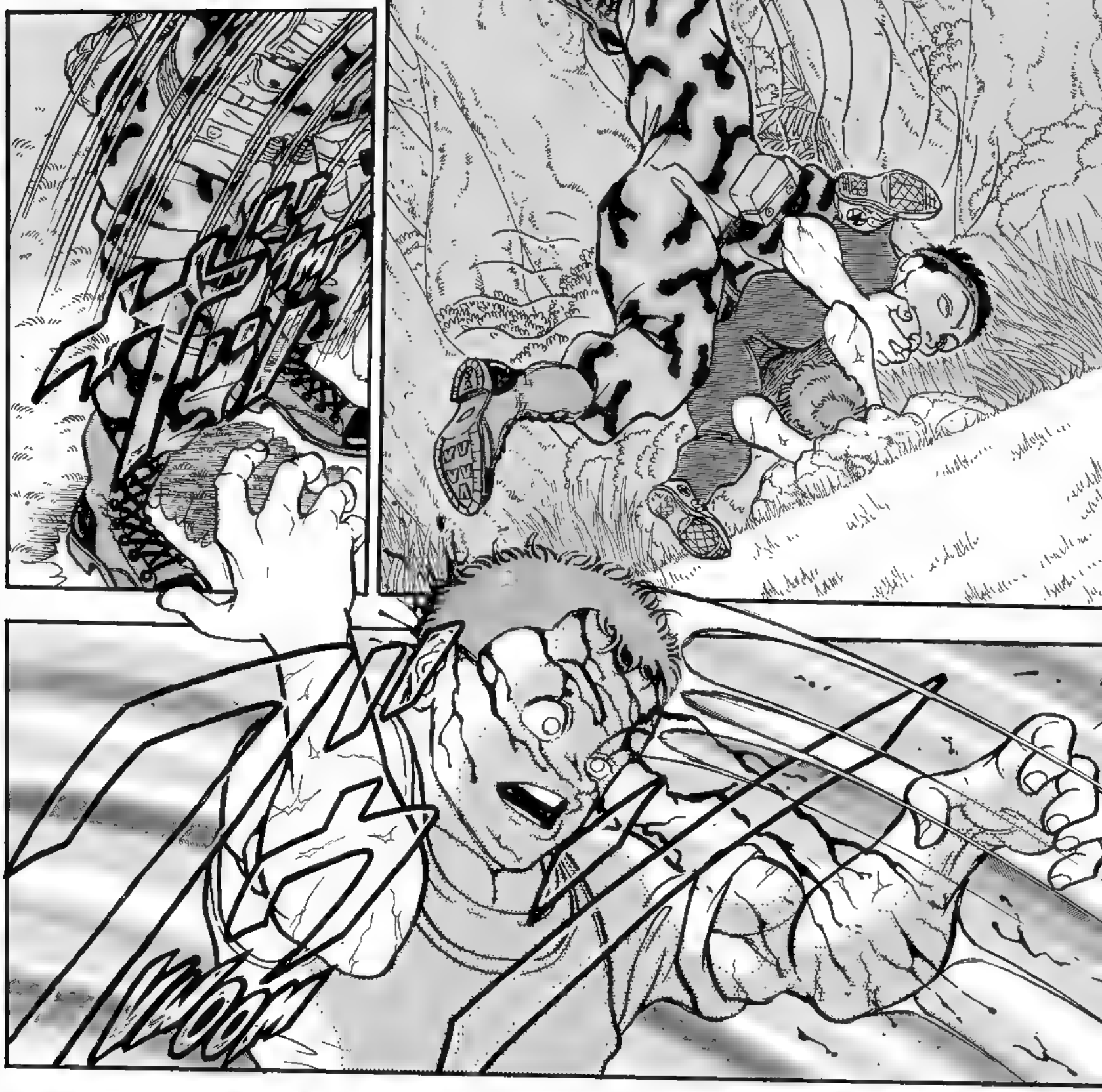
WSH

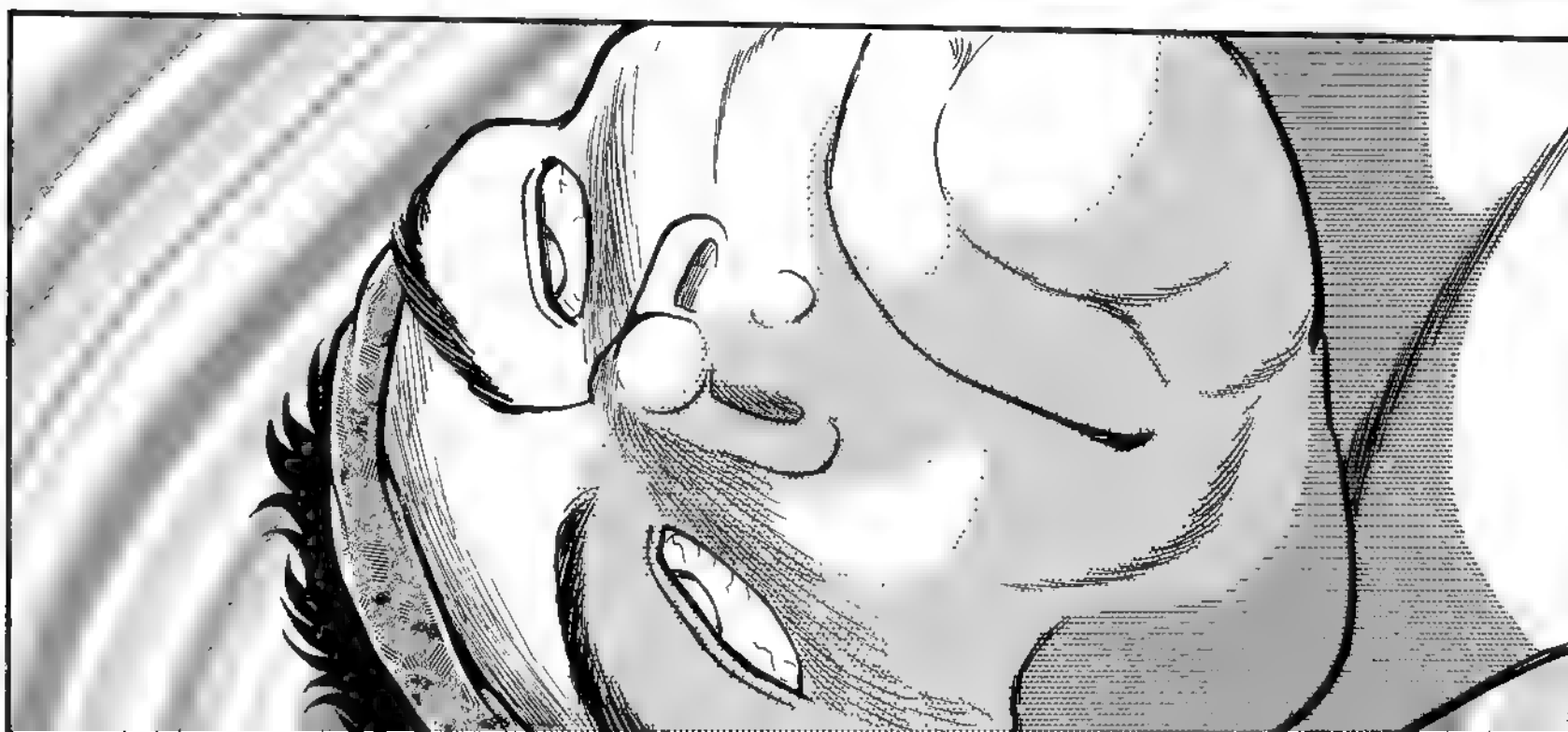
WHP



GWOO







SPLAASH
パァァッッ
GUUH!
SHWF

...!

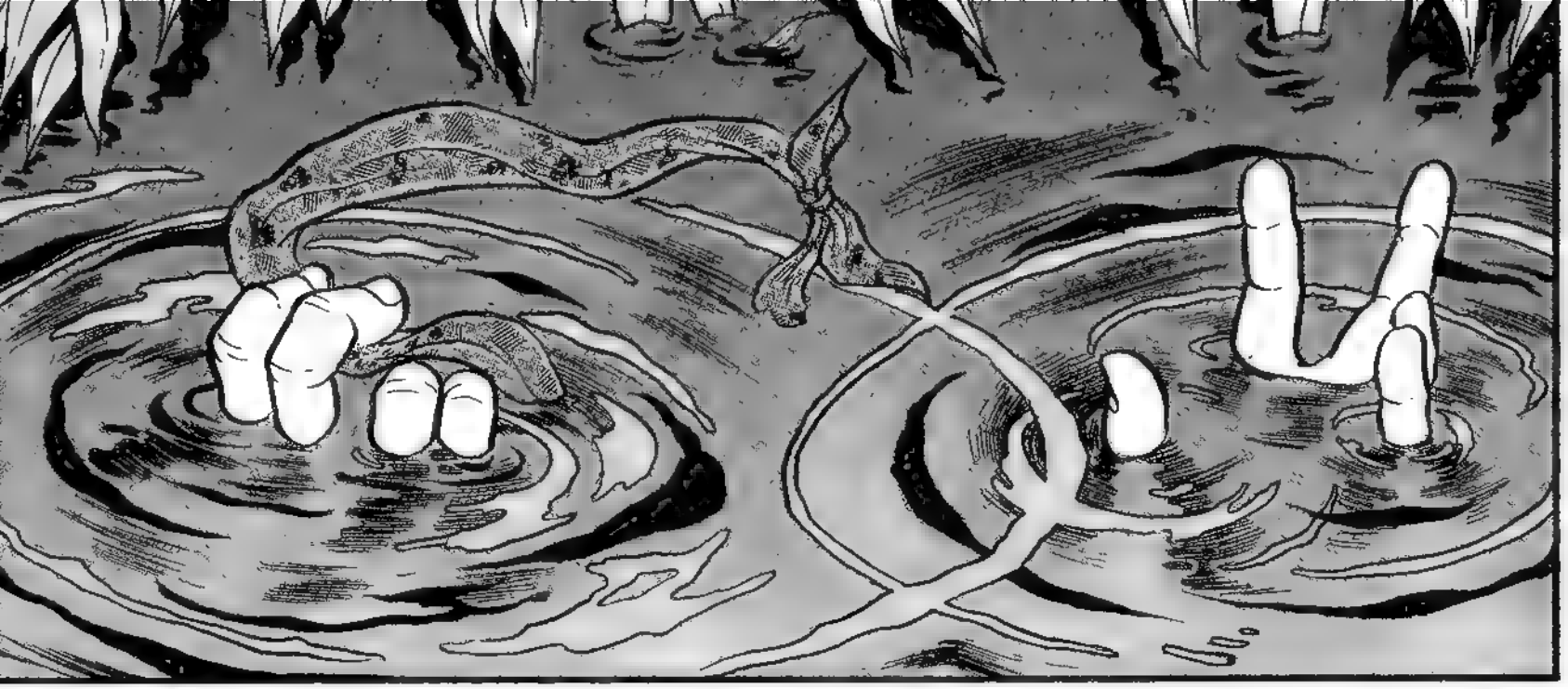
SPLOOSH

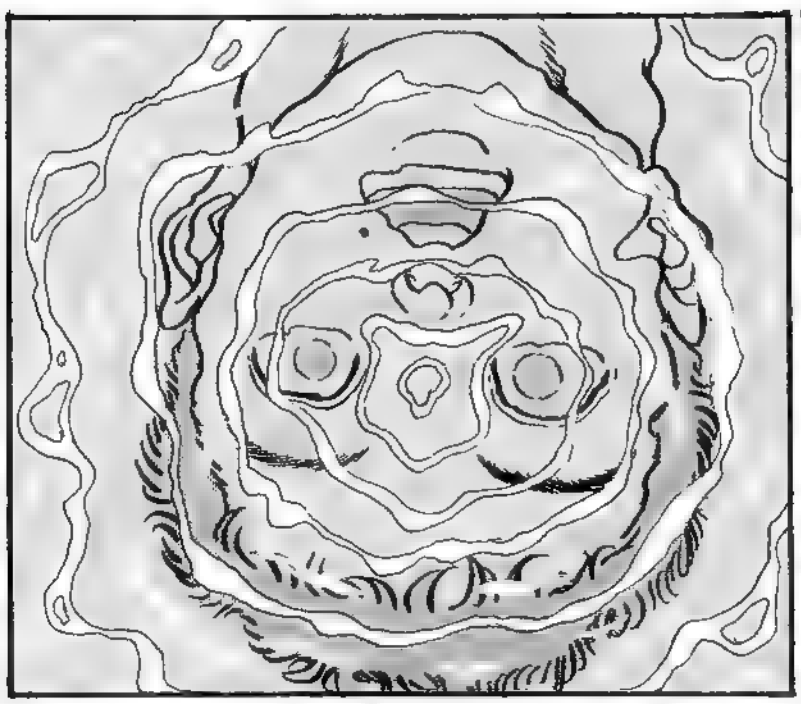
GLUB GLUB GLUB

!!!

SPLB SPLB

GLUB...
ゴボ・・・





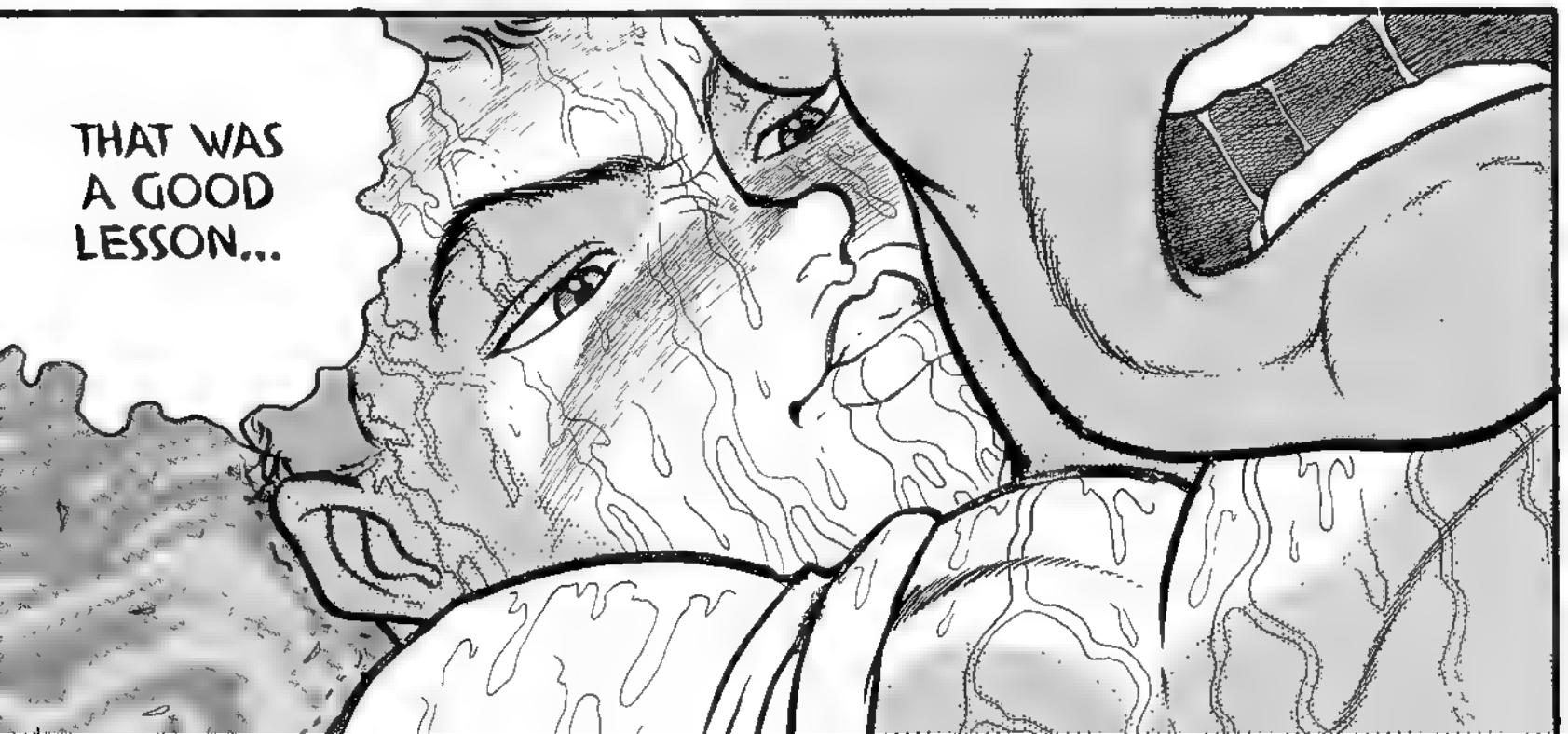
HOWEVER, COMPARED TO WHAT GAIA WOULD DO TO YOU, YOU COULD SAY *THIS* WAS A MORE PEACEFUL DEATH.

I'M SURE YOU MUST'VE SUFFERED...

BRAVE YOUNG WARRIOR ...

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP?

HEY.


THAT WAS A GOOD LESSON...

*STRONG STYLE: A JAPANESE STYLE OF WRESTLING THAT INCORPORATES STRIKES AND HOLDS FROM OTHER MARTIAL ARTS.

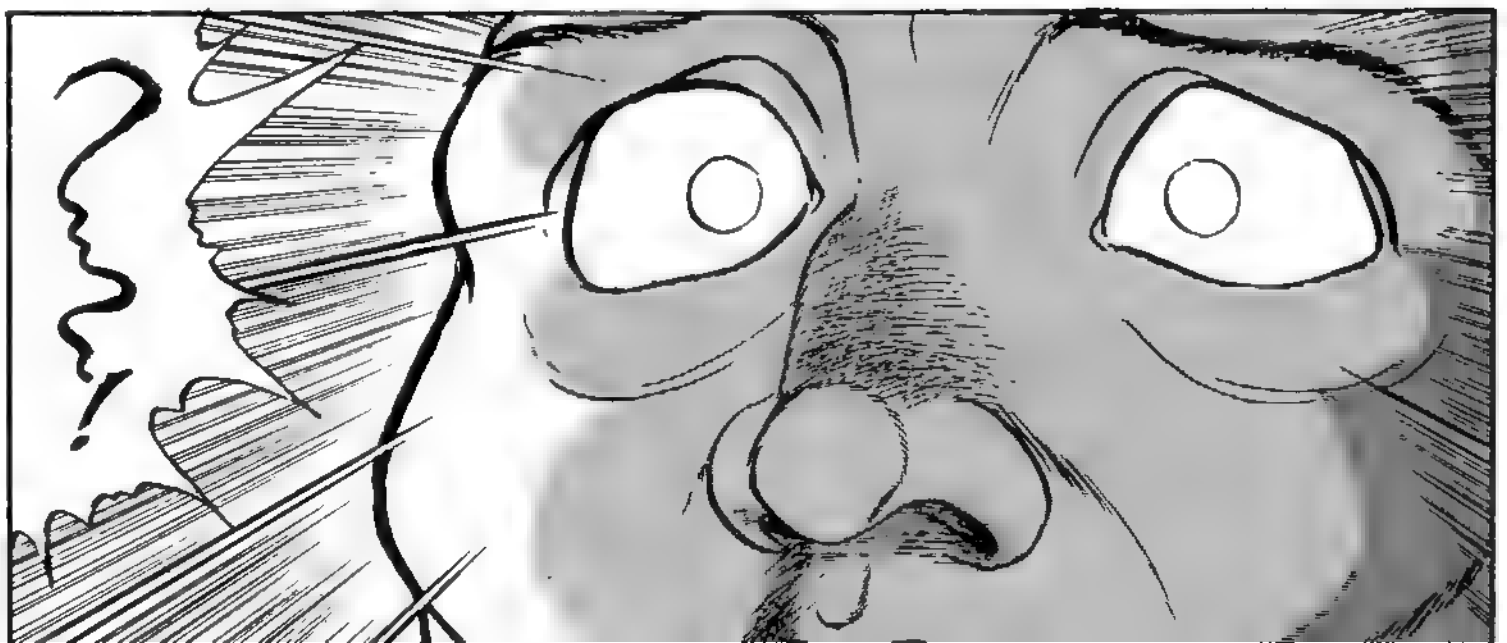
#138 Skunk

KREE
リ
KREE
リ
KREE
リ

KREE
リ
KREE
リ

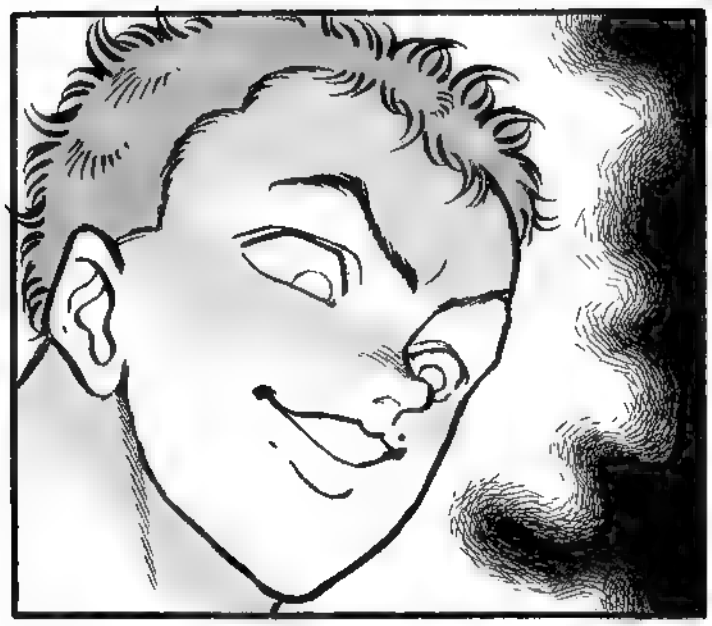
...!

...



SO-
RYAAAH!
BAM
BAM
URK...
...

SHUNK



DON'T THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU BEAT TWO OF US THAT—

YOU'LL REGRET THIS.
YOU WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF USING YOUR TIME TO *RUN*.

I'M GETTING PUMPED UP.

SHIK

NEVER THOUGHT BEING PURSUED COULD BE SO *FUN* AND *THRILLING.*

AFTER ALL, PEOPLE FIRST STARTED FIGHTING WITH THE GOAL OF *KILLING EACH OTHER.*

THIS IS WHAT *REAL FIGHTS* ARE ALL ABOUT, HUH?

FIGHTING IS AN *OPIOID.*

YOU GUYS REMINDED ME OF THAT.

YOU END UP LEARNING ALL ABOUT *GAMES* LIKE THIS.

NO WONDER YUJIRO HANMA IMMERSES HIMSELF IN THE BATTLEFIELD.

DID YOU JUST SAY... *YUJIRO HANMA?*

B-BOY...

Y-YOU'RE *THE* OGRE'S SON?

HEY, HEY! HOW DO YOU KNOW MY FATHER'S NAME?!

ANSWER MY QUESTION! HOW DO YOU KNOW MY FA-THER?!

OGRE? GAIA?

FIGURES SUCH AS OGRE AND GAIA ARE SACRED TO SOLDIERS LIKE US...

YUJIRO HANMA. NICKNAME— *OGRE.*

HE'S THE MAN WHO CAN SUPPRESS MODERN-DAY WEAPONRY COMPLETELY UNARMED, SO THE SOLDIERS OF THE WORLD GAVE HIM THE NAME "OGRE" IN REVERENCE.

THERE'S ANOTHER LIKE HIM...

...IS SERVING AS OUR COMMANDER...

RIGHT NOW, HE...

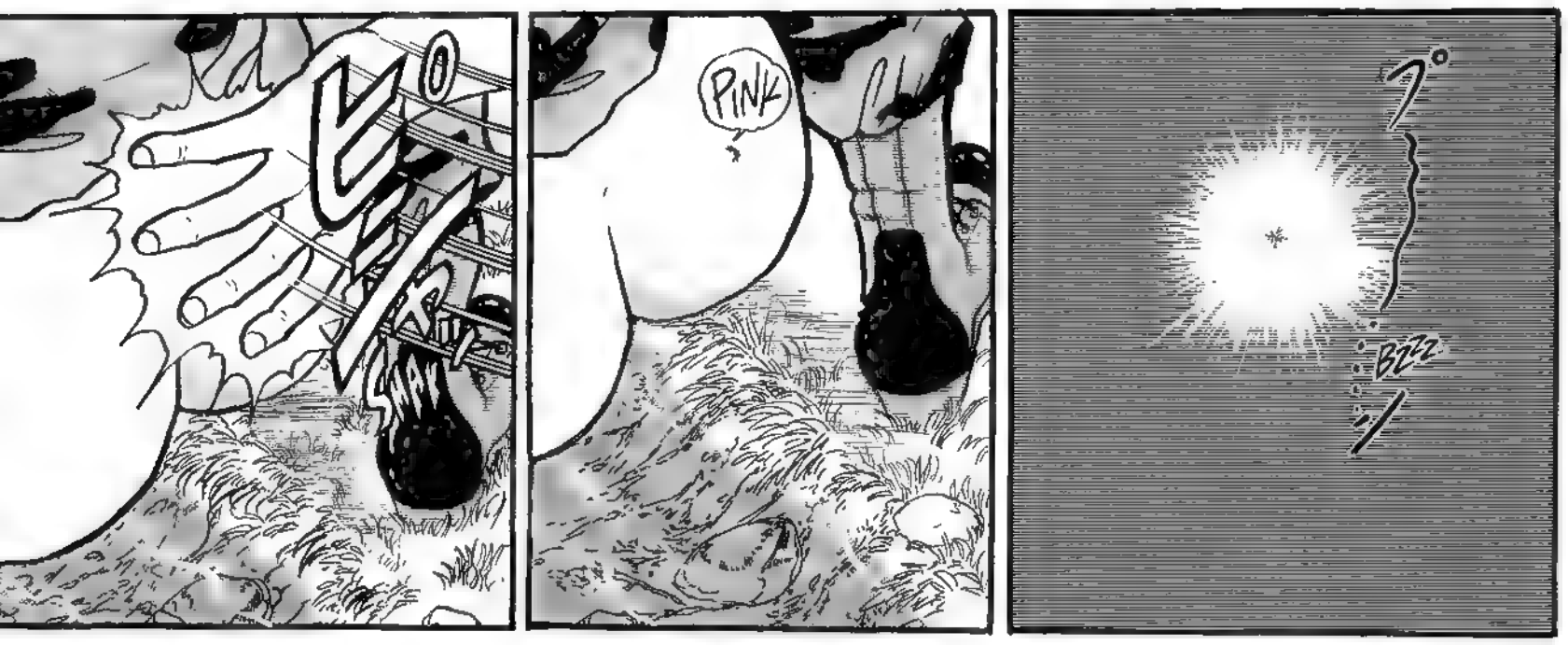
AND HOW CAPABLE GAIA, WHO *RIVALS* YOUR FATHER, CAN BE...

THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO RUN... IF YOU'RE OGRE'S SON, YOU MUST BE WELL AWARE OF HOW STRONG YOUR FATHER IS...

KURAISHI...

HE'S ALREADY GONE.

...



NOT FOR ME, AT LEAST...

THIS JOB AIN'T EASY EITHER.

BEING A MEDIC, THAT IS.

HUH?

IT WAS YOURS, WASN'T IT? ♡

THIS CUT...

...!

NORGH!

NO, UM...

...NOT THE GUY WHO RIVALS MY FATHER.

EEK...

YOU'RE DEFINITELY...

TMP
ズチャ
ズチャ
TMP
SHF
ズシャッ
SUSHI

KCHAPP

TH-THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE DONE THAT.

BARE-HANDED BLADE GRAB!

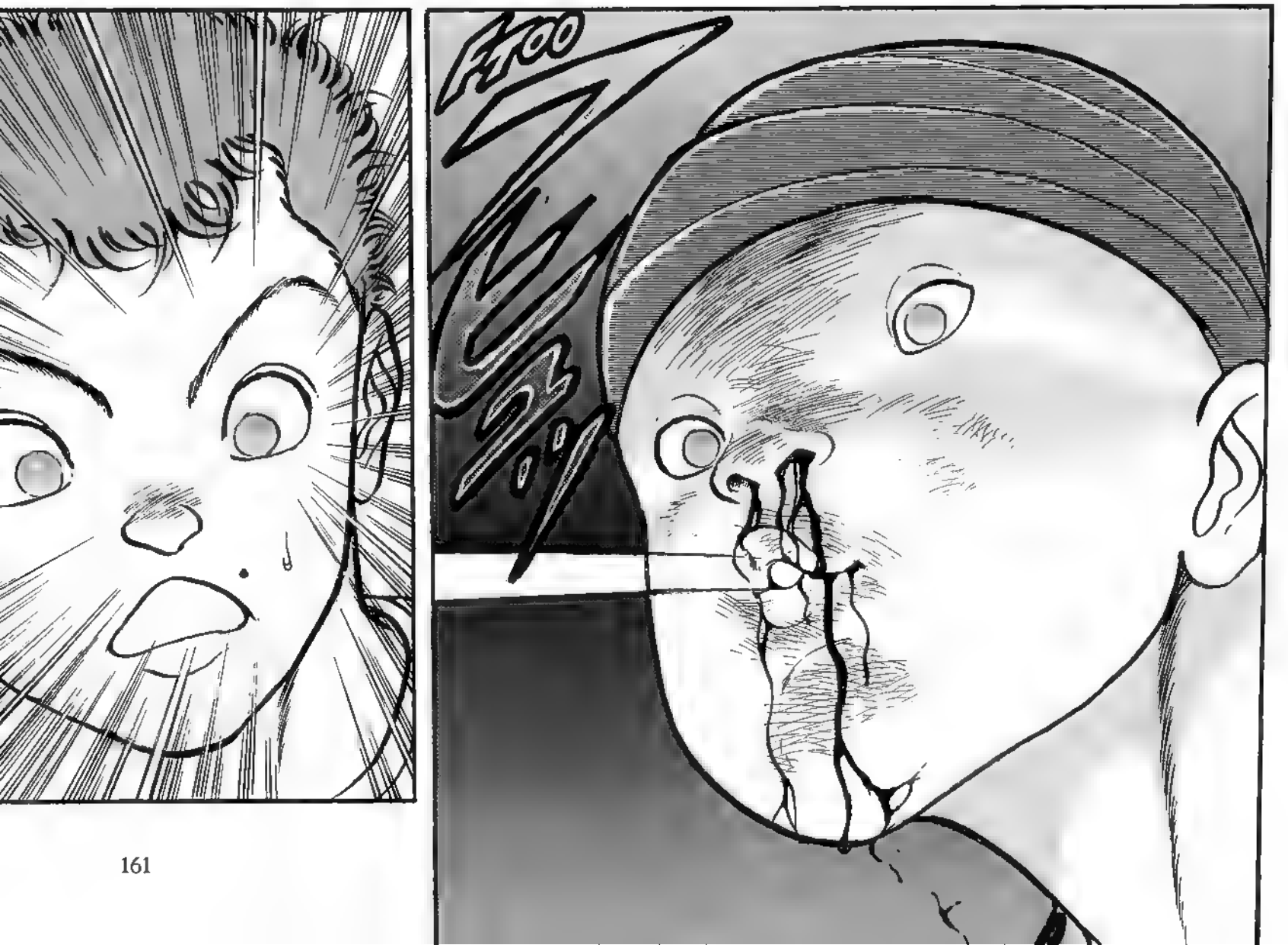
TINGE

TINGE

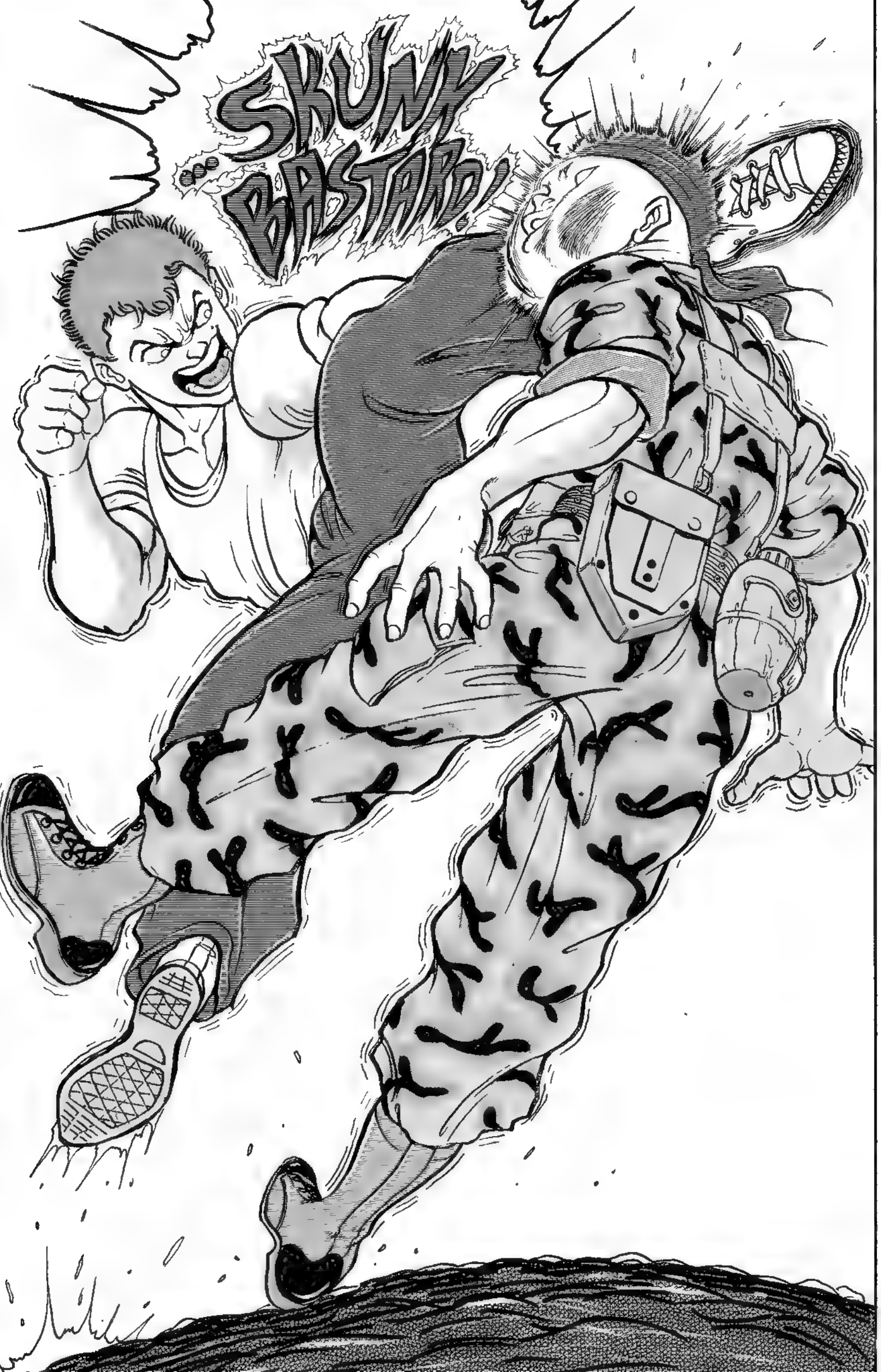
TINGE

TINGE

A PUNCH, A KICK, A SUBMISSION ?
NOW... WHAT DO YOU WANNA TAKE?


FTOO

YIKES!
YOU...
FORGIVE ME...
H-HE HAD A SULFURIC ACID CAPSULE IN HIS MOUTH...


SKUNK BASTARD!

FIGURES THAT'S HOW NOMURA WOULD END UP.

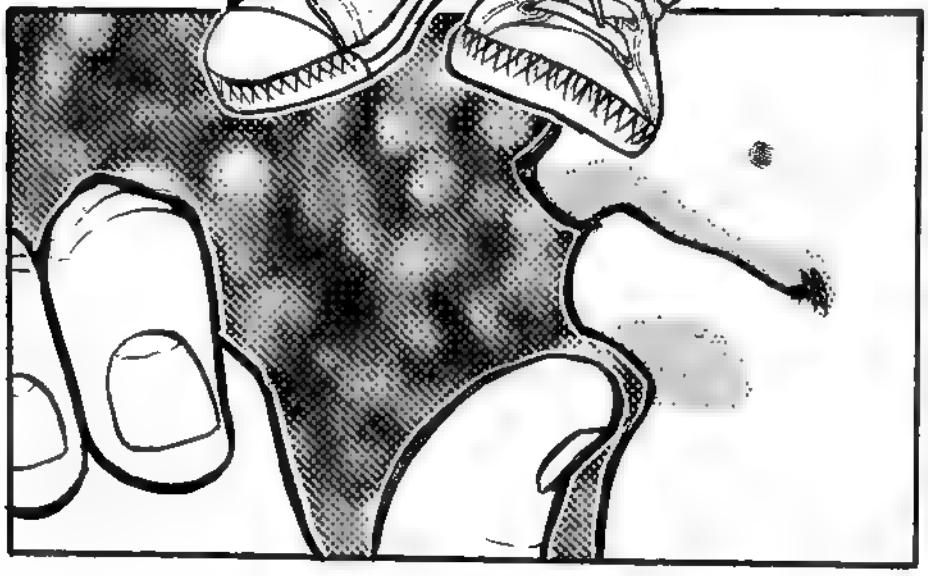
AAH, MAN.

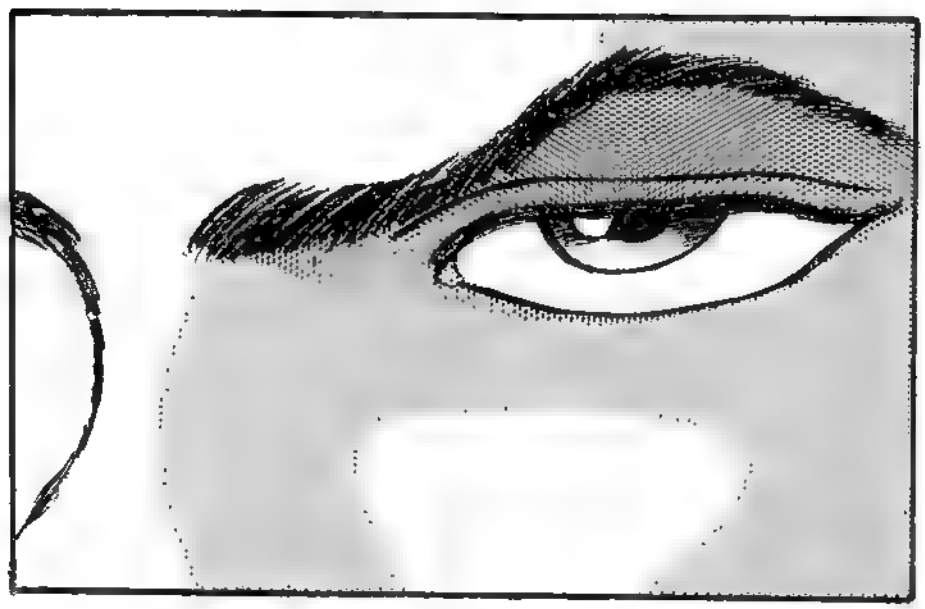
I'M GONNA ENJOY THIS. ♡

HE'S OGRE'S SON, EH?

CAN'T BELIEVE HE MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO US.

#139 This is War





...

...

WHERE IS GAIA RIGHT NOW?

NOMURA...

I JUST KNOW...

YOU CAN ASK ME, BUT I DON'T KNOW...

...HE ISN'T FAR.

...MUCH CLOSER THAN ANY OF US REALIZE...

I HAVE A FEELING THAT HE IS...

NO... NOT UNTILL THAT BOY TAKES HIS LAST BREATH...

...NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO STOP HIM.

...AND ONCE HE EMERGES...

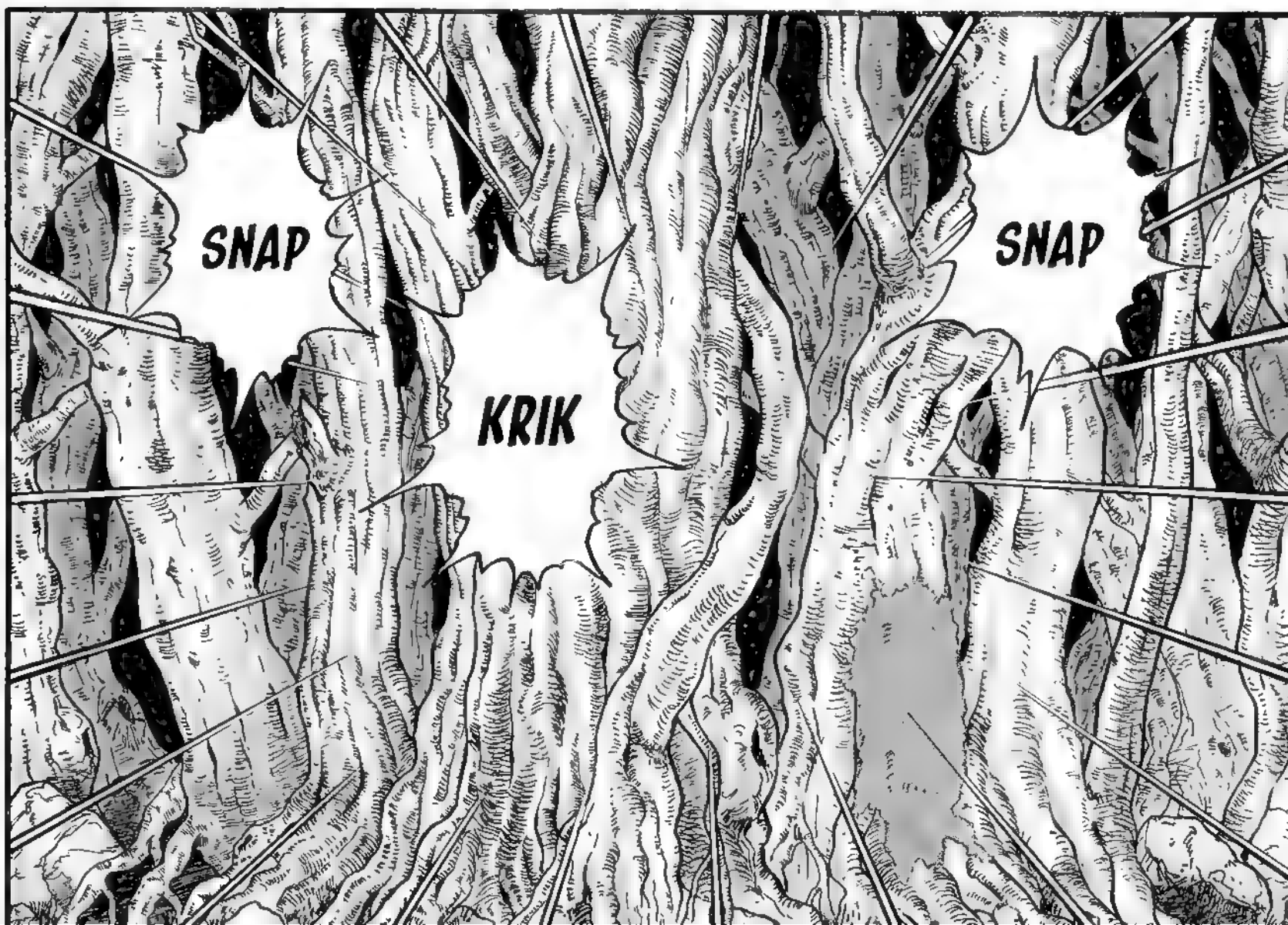
HE'S A CLEVER BOY.

HEH HEH... CHECK OUT THE PATHETIC LOOK ON THE FACES OF THOSE THREE.

HE'S RIGHT IN FRONT, NOT BUDGING...

THAT'S NO WAY FOR THE *PEERLESS ELITE* TO END UP.
THAT BOY'S HAND-TO-HAND SKILLS ARE THE REAL DEAL.
A LITTLE TOO CLEAN THOUGH.
LET'S GIVE HIM A TASTE ...
...OF HOW UNARMED COMBAT WORKS ON THE BATTLE-FIELD...
PWCH
SHRP

KRAK
KRIK


SNAP
KRIK
SNAP

DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO APPROACH FROM THE FRONT...

KRAK

WHAT A SURPRISE...

SNAP

SNAP

SNAP

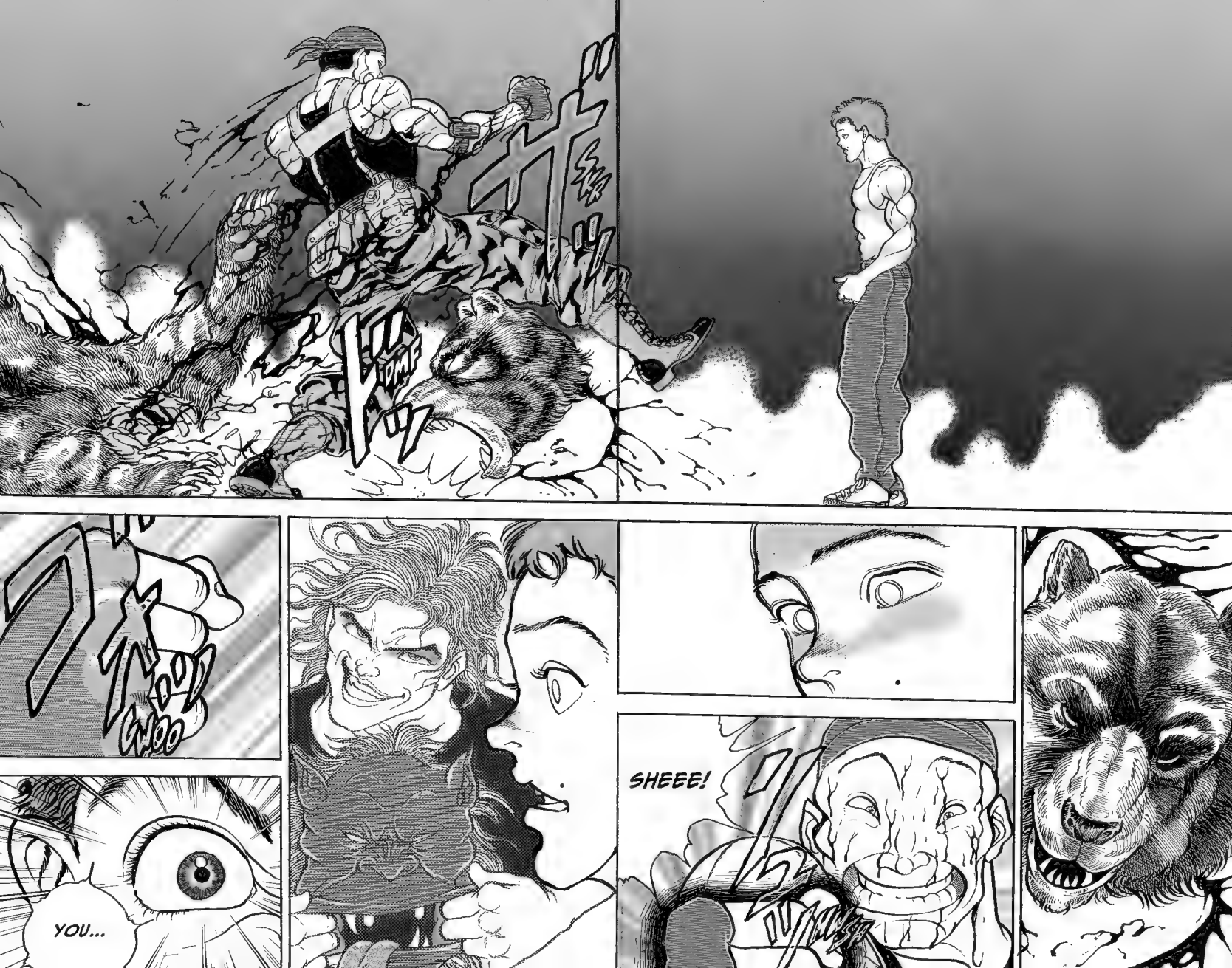
SNAP

SNAP

KOFF!
KRAK
KRIK...
A BEAR ...
HUFF
HUFF

IT'S WOUNDED !!!
IT CAME TO DRINK WATER...
POOR THING...
HA HA... DON'T WORRY. I'M A FRIEND.
ヌウ〜〜〜〜!
LOOOM
...!

LOOM...
ぬっ
PLOP
ボコッ


SHEEE!
YOU...

WHAM
YOU SON OF A BITCH !!!
...DUMB-ASS!
FUCK YOU...
OH!
!
...!!!

QUIT BRINGIN' UP...

BAM

KRAK

...BAD MEMORIES !!!

GOD, EVERY SINGLE THING...

WHIP

...YOU FUCKERS DO...

BAM!!

SWISH

WHIP

...GETS ON MY NERVES!

WHA?!

I NEVER WOULD'VE IMAGINED THAT A KID AS AMAZING AS YOU EXISTED!

CHAK

CLNK

CHAK

...!
TO THINK THAT YOU'D PUSH A PRO LIKE ME THIS FAR...

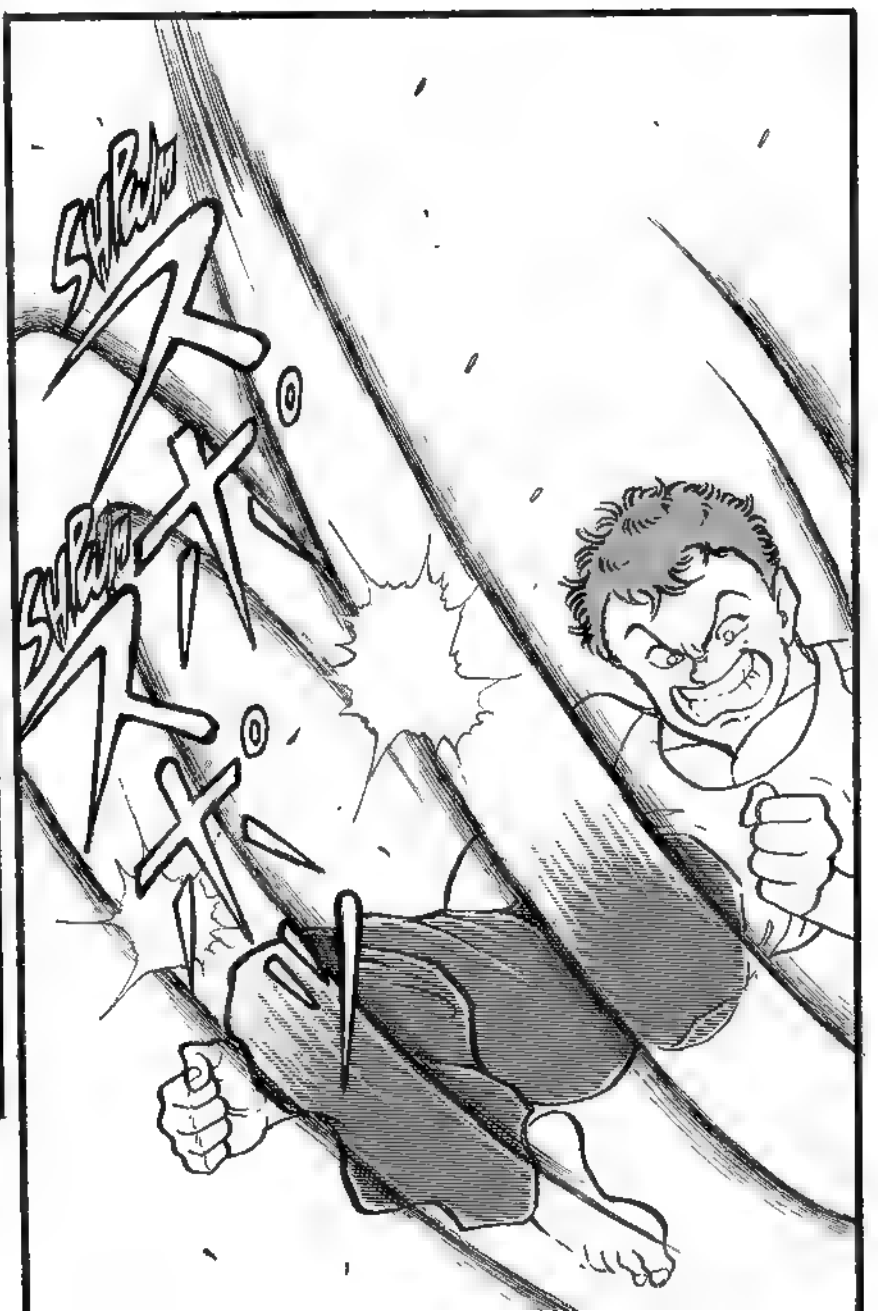
NO MORE PLAYING AROUND...

GRP...

ニヤリ・・・ッ

SHOO

OOOH!



BMF
ボム
BMF
ボム
?!

STOMP

...!

YOU'RE JUST FULL OF PEP...

HEH HEH.

ONE VERSUS MANY... THIS IS STANDARD ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, BOY.

...!

THERE YOU HAVE IT, KID...

THE GAME'S OVER.

...!

AAH!
MY KNIFE
...
WHY,
YOU
...!
P-PIIING

BABAM

HEH
HEH.
...!

GUESS THIS ISN'T JUST SOME BRAWL...

!!!

YEP! WE CAN CALL IT A WAR.

IF ANYTHING, THIS IS A *WAR*...

IN THAT CASE, I'LL HAVE TO REVEAL MY *IDENTITY*...

#140 Team

THIS IS TWO NATIONS...

HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT DOESN'T HAPPEN BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE...

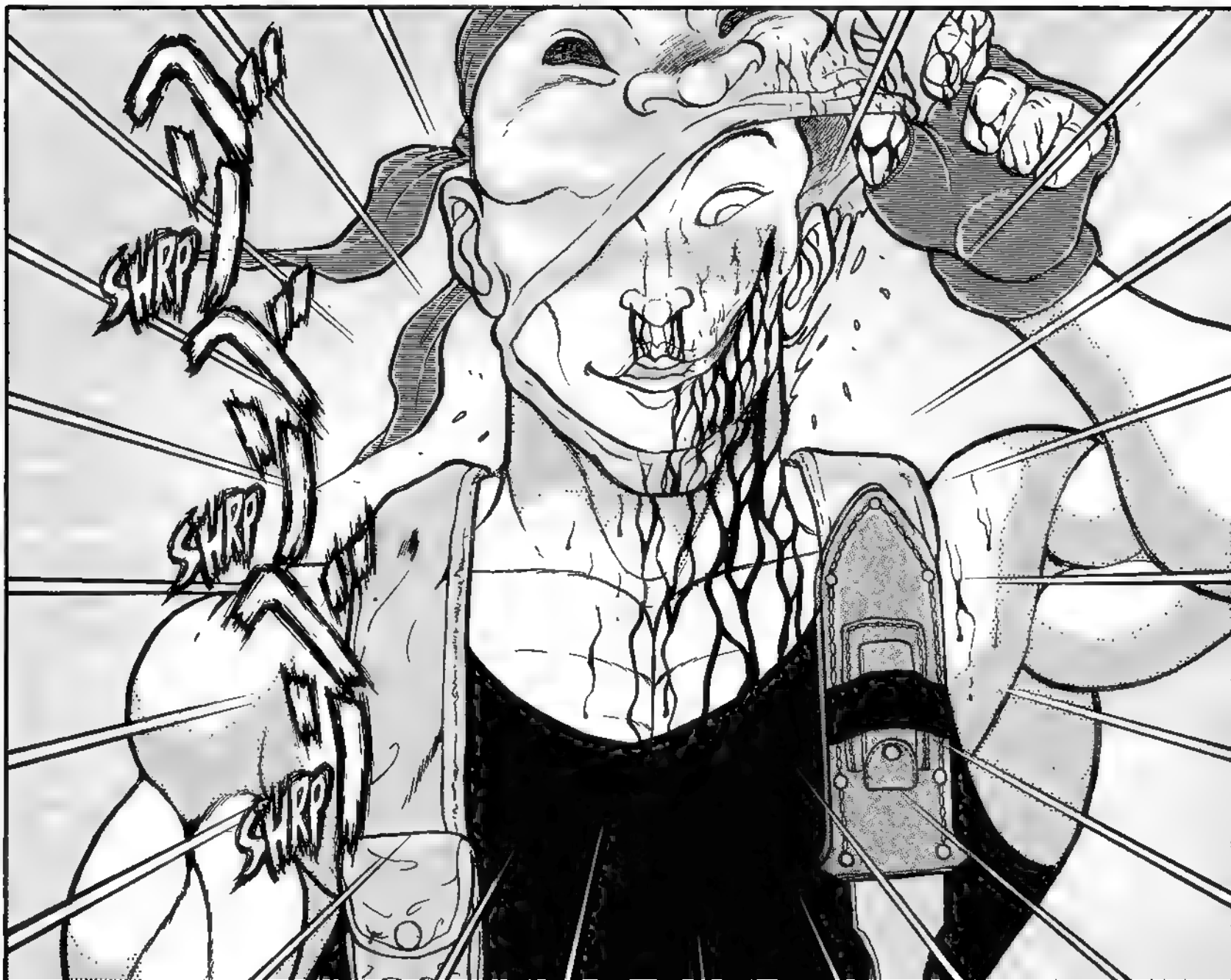
...ONE CALLED "ME," THE OTHER "YOU"...

ドリ DRIP ドリ DRIP

...ENGAGED IN ALL-OUT WAR!

"BLEH"

RIP
RIP
RIP


SHRP
SHRP
SHRP

...WE ARE IDENTICAL TWINS.

AS YOU CAN SEE...

I TYPICALLY WEAR A DISGUISE TO AVOID CONFUSING ALLIES...

THEY'RE PULLING *THAT* AGAINST THE BOY?!

...!

...THIS TRAIT IS *INVALUABLE* FOR CLOSE COMBAT.

SHNK...

...BUT WHEN WE TEAM UP...

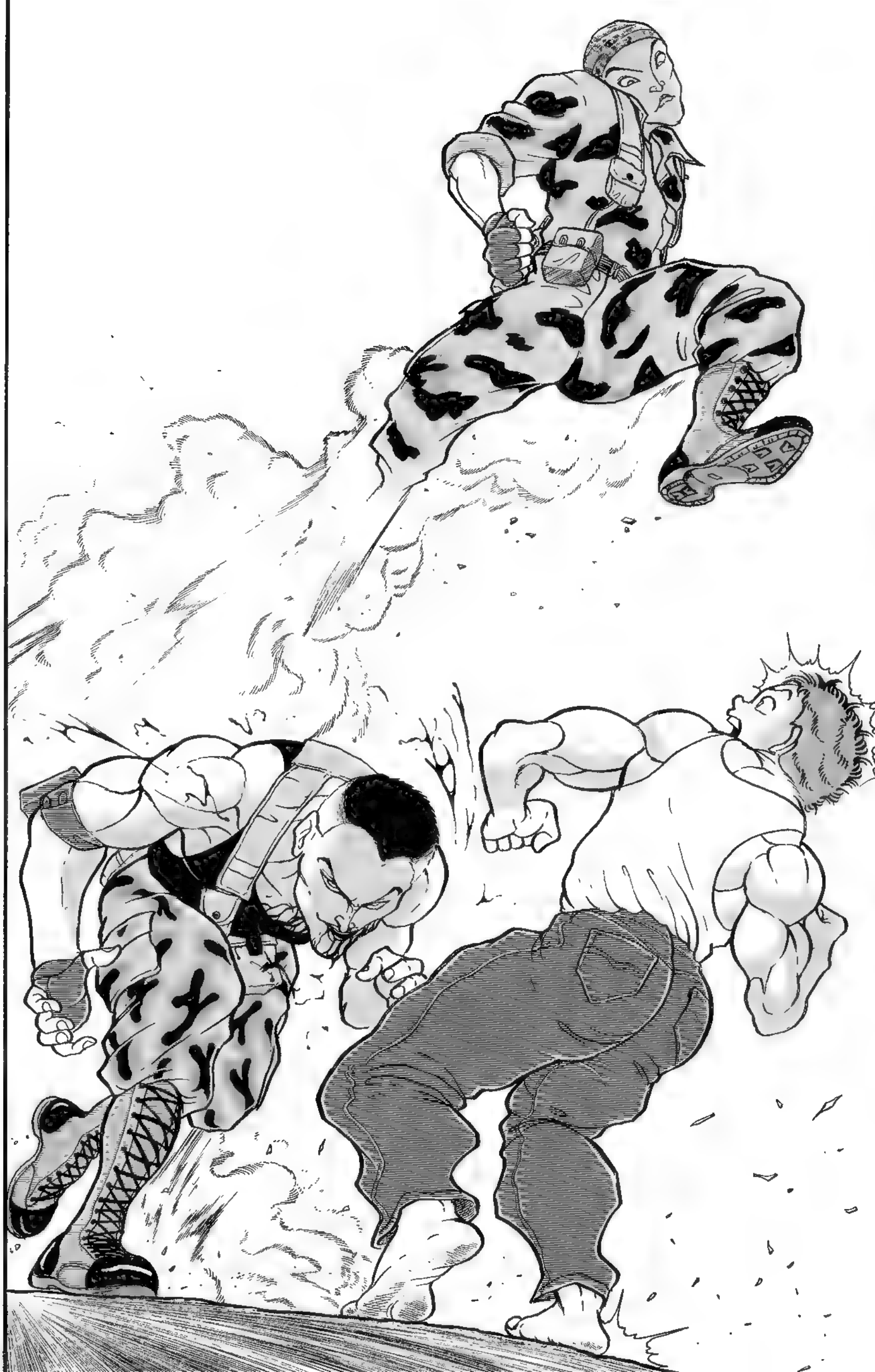
SHNK...

WE ACTUALLY WANTED TO FIGHT YOUR FATHER...

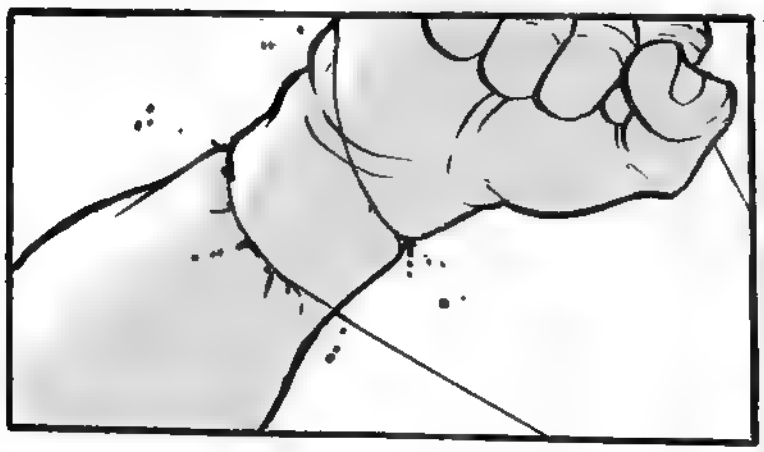
SHNK

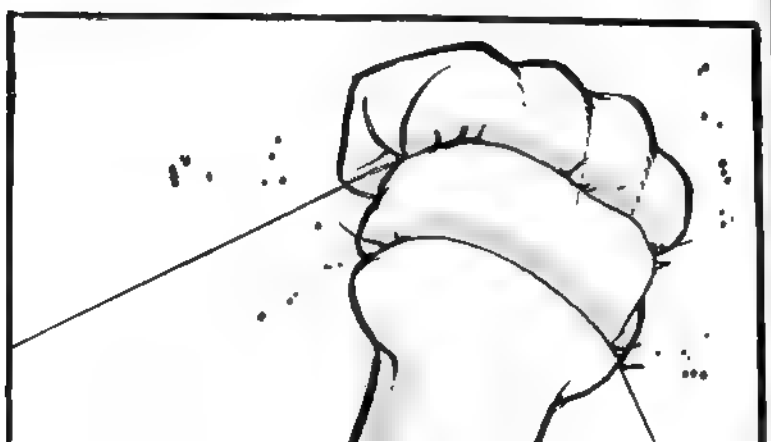
SWF

SWF

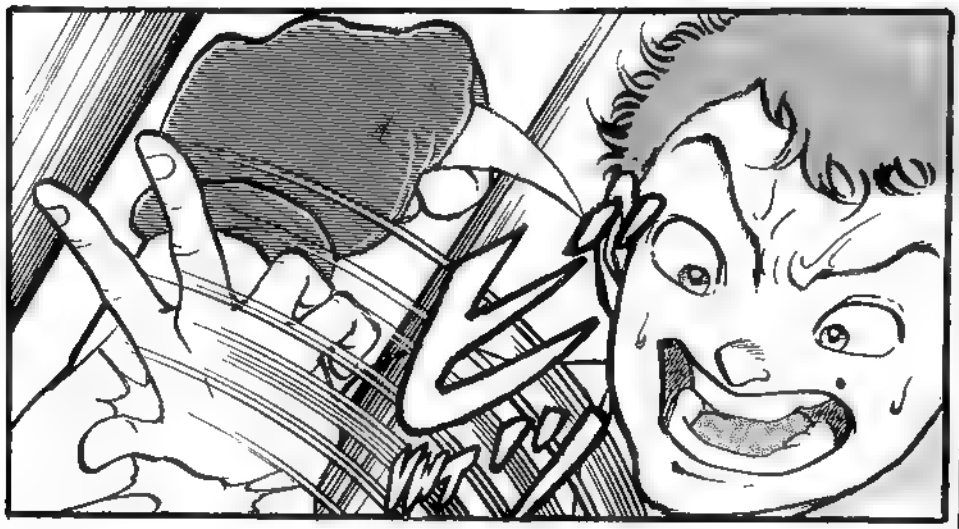


PWEEM
!!!
CHAK





BAM
...!



SHEE!

CHIK

TH-
THESE
GUYS
...!!!
SHF
DO!

VNSH!
!

THESE TWO!!!

NWOOOH!

BOTH OF THEM...

...!

THESE TWO TOGETHER...

YOU'RE GAIA?!

SHNK
BUT...

I-
I CAN'T PULL IT OUT!!!

?!

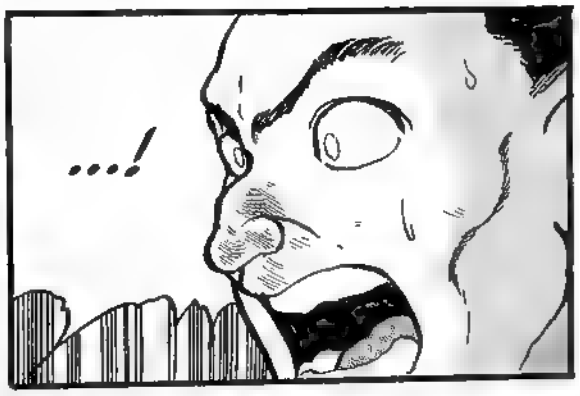
HE STIFFENED HIS MUSCLES AROUND THE BLADE!

BUT NEITHER OF THESE TWO...

TUG

NEITHER
OF YOU
COULD HOLD
A CANDLE TO
MY FATHER!

BAM
BAM
BAM


...!

YOU'D BOTH NEED A HUNDRED YEARS OF TRAINING TO RIVAL YUJIRO!

UGH...

NOMURA, STOP!!!

UGH...

UGH...

!!!

HUH...?!

#141 Gaia Appears

!

!

...!

NOMURA, STOP!!!

UGH...

UGH!

UGH!

ERK...

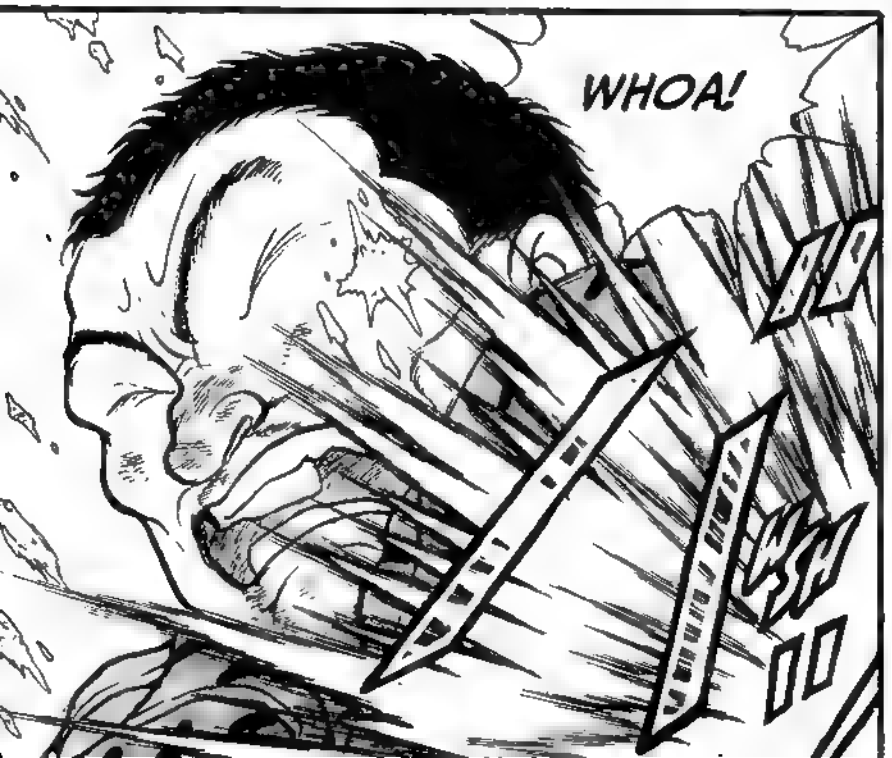
EEEK ...!

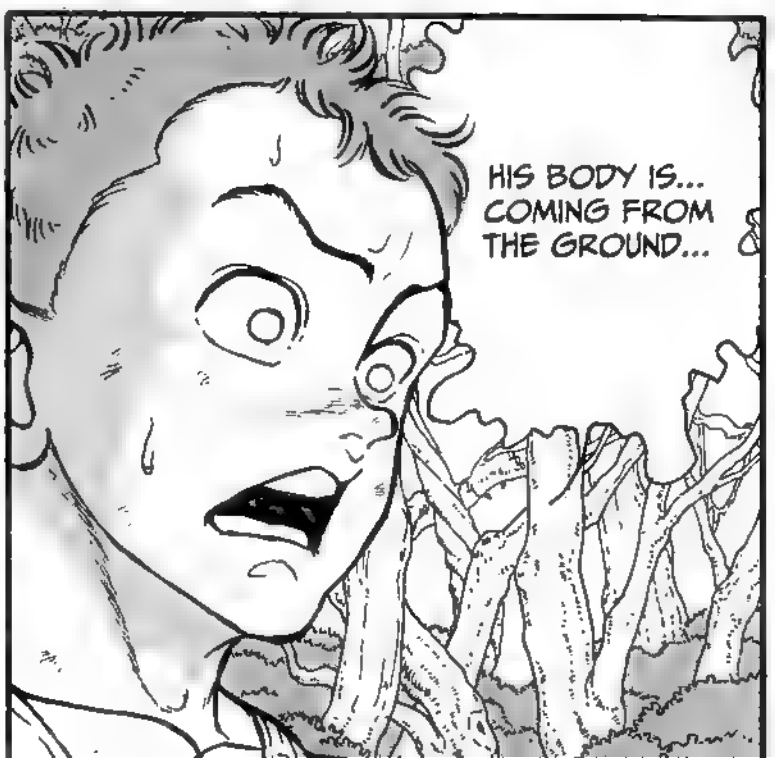
WHA ...?!

HANMA.
RUUUUN!!!
SHIUR
WHAT'S THIS GUY'S DEAL ...?!

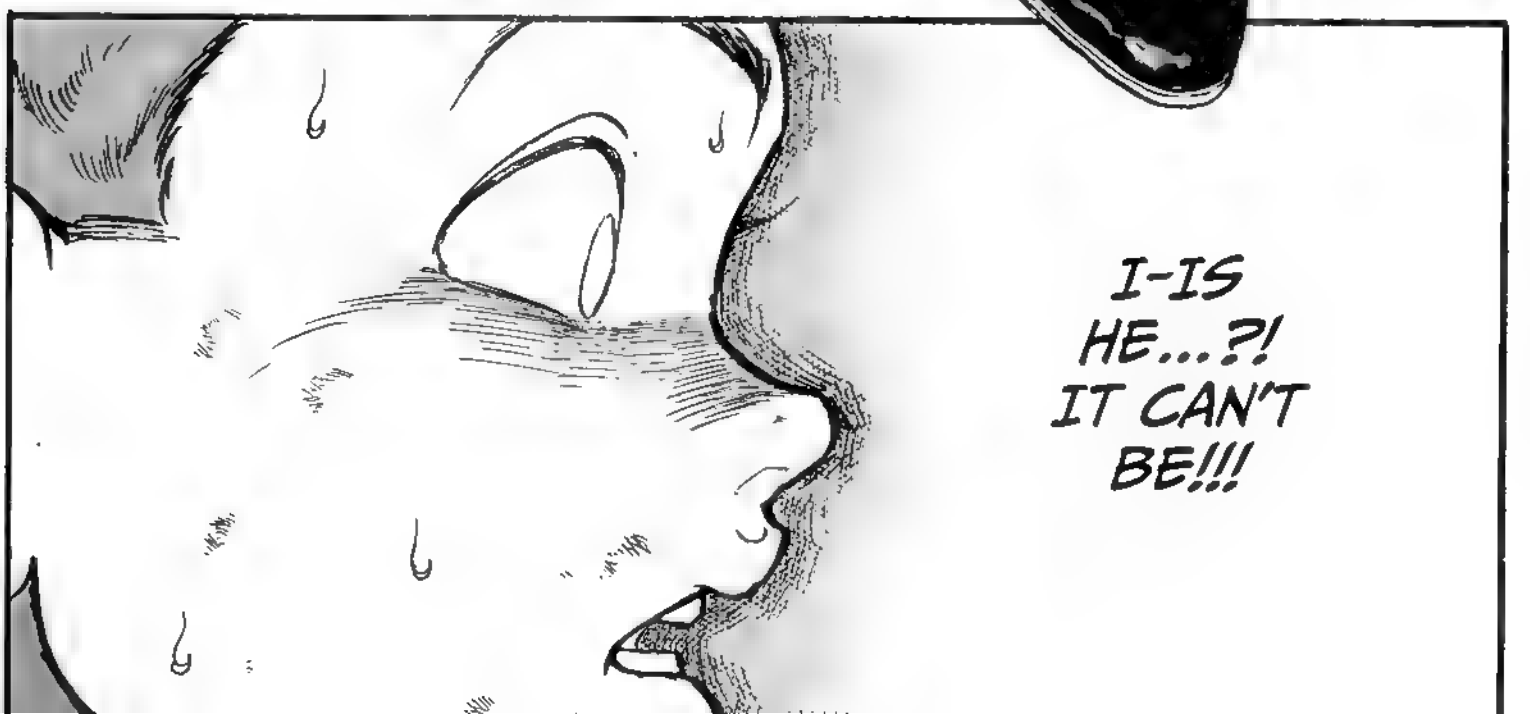
IT'S STARTED.
...!

ZING
SHOOP


WHOA!


HIS BODY IS... COMING FROM THE GROUND...

SCTHX


I-IS HE...?! IT CAN'T BE!!!

...HAS RETURNED.

GAIA ...

TENTACLE HUG!!!

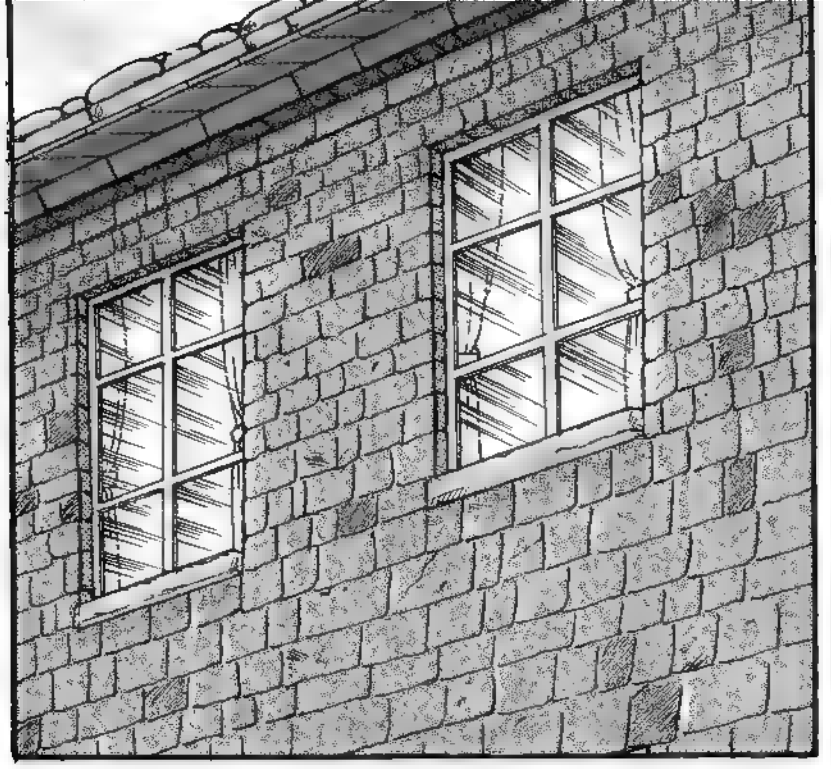
RATTL

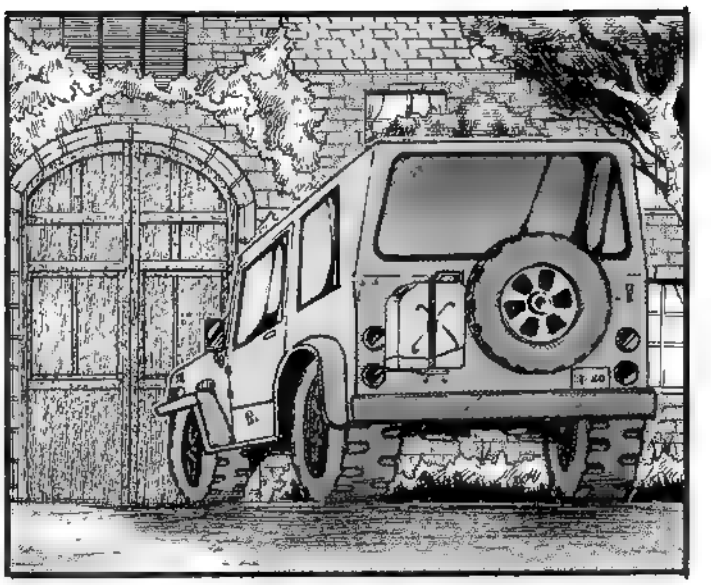
RATTL

RATTL

RATTL

RATTL





THOSE SCARS...

GAIA GAVE ME THESE DURING THE 1980 CIVIL WAR IN THE CONGO.

IT WAS A FOOLISH FIGHT...

YOU FOUGHT GAIA, SIR ...?!

ALL OF THESE VICTORIES GNAWED AT ME AND DULLED MY INSTINCTS AS A SOLDIER.

ONE SERIES OF VICTORIES AFTER ANOTHER...

I MADE THE IDIOTIC DECISION TO TAKE ON GAIA ONE-ON-ONE IN JUNGLE COMBAT!!!

RATTLE
ガタ

DESPITE MY FIFTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, I HAD FORGOTTEN THAT BASIC FACT!

IT'S SAID THAT WINNING TOO MUCH WILL MAKE A SOLDIER SOFT...

IT WAS HELL...

OHO.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THIS BOY IS OUR ENEMY.

PHEH!
RIDICULOUS.

...BUT NOW IT TURNS OUT THAT GAIA IS SOME SKUNK BASTARD THAT I ALREADY FLOORED LAST NIGHT ?

THEY SAID YOU RIVALED YUJIRO HANMA, SO I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF MONSTER WOULD SHOW UP...

THIS TIME, I'M NOT GONNA SHOW YOU ANY MERCY, EVEN IF YOU START CRYING LIKE A BABY!

DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF JUST CAUSE YOUR MEN ARE WATCHING.

SHMP

WHIFF
!

WHSH
WHFF
WHFF
WHSH

...!

YOU WON'T TOUCH ME. EVER.

WHY CAN'T I LAND A HIT ON HIM ?!

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

...YOUR BODY IS REJECTING THE ACT OF HARMING MY BODY...

BE-CAUSE...

#142 Split Personalities

...A MAN WAS ARRESTED.

OCTOBER 27, 1977. OHIO...

BILLY MILLIGAN, AGE 22

HOWEVER, AS THE QUESTIONING WENT ON, A SHOCKING FACT CAME TO LIGHT.

HE WAS CHARGED WITH RAPE, AN OFFENSE THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED COMMONPLACE IN THE CRIME RIDDLED COUNTRY THAT IS THE UNITED STATES...

URK...
URK...
I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
IS IT HAPPENING?
HNGH...
WHO IS IT THIS TIME?
DANNY THE CRYBABY, A COWARLY FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD KID.
WEEEEH!
ピタッ
PAUSE
PERK...
ピク...

IT'S RAGAN!

WHA?!

BE CAREFUL! HE KNOWS KARATE!

SMRK...

SHAAH!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... HIS STRENGTH IS INSANE...

...RESTED SEVERAL SOULS.

WITHIN A SINGLE PERSON...

DON'T MOVE, RAGAN!

HE HAD SPLIT PERSONALITIES.

...MILLIGAN'S DRASTIC CHANGES WENT BEYOND THE SCOPE OF MERE ACTING...

...LEAVING THE ACADEMIC WORLD'S EXPERTS SPEECHLESS.

EVEN IN TESTS PERFORMED IN THE PRESENCE OF SPECIALISTS...

AS A RESULT OF A THOROUGH EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION ON MILLIGAN...

...RESEARCHERS ENCOUNTERED TWENTY-FOUR PERSONALITIES, ALL OF VARYING AGES AND GENDERS.

RAGAN (AGE 23: THE KARATE EXPERT WHO CAN CONTROL HIS ADRENALINE FLOW)

ARTHUR (AGE 22: THE CHEMIST AND AVOWED ATHEIST)

ALLEN (AGE 18: THE SMOKER AND TALKER)

TOMMY (AGE 16: THE ESCAPE ARTIST AND PAINTER)

DANNY (AGE 14: THE FRIGHTENED ONE WITH BLOND HAIR)

ADALANA (AGE 19: THE LONELY AND INTROVERTED LESBIAN)

PHILLIP (AGE 20: THE THUG WITH A BROOKLYN ACCENT)

WALTER (AGE 22: THE HUNTER WITH AN EXCELLENT SENSE OF DIRECTION)

APRIL (AGE 19: THE BITCH WITH A BOSTON ACCENT)

MARK (AGE 16: THE WORKHORSE WITH NO INITIATIVE)

JASON (AGE 13: THE HYSTERIC WITH AMNESIA)

THE OHIO COURT RECOGNIZED THE FINDINGS OF THIS REPORT...

THE BILLY MILLIGAN CASE SHOCKED PSYCHOLOGISTS, PHYSIOLOGISTS, ANATOMISTS, AND EVEN OCCULTISTS TO THEIR CORE!..

HE CONTINUES TO BE A FIRST-CLASS RESEARCH SUBJECT TO THIS VERY DAY.

AND FOUND HIM NOT GUILTY! IT WAS THE FIRST SUCH RULING IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

EEO-
RAAAH!!!

WHY CAN'T I HIT YOU?!

...QUIT FUCKING WITH ME !!!

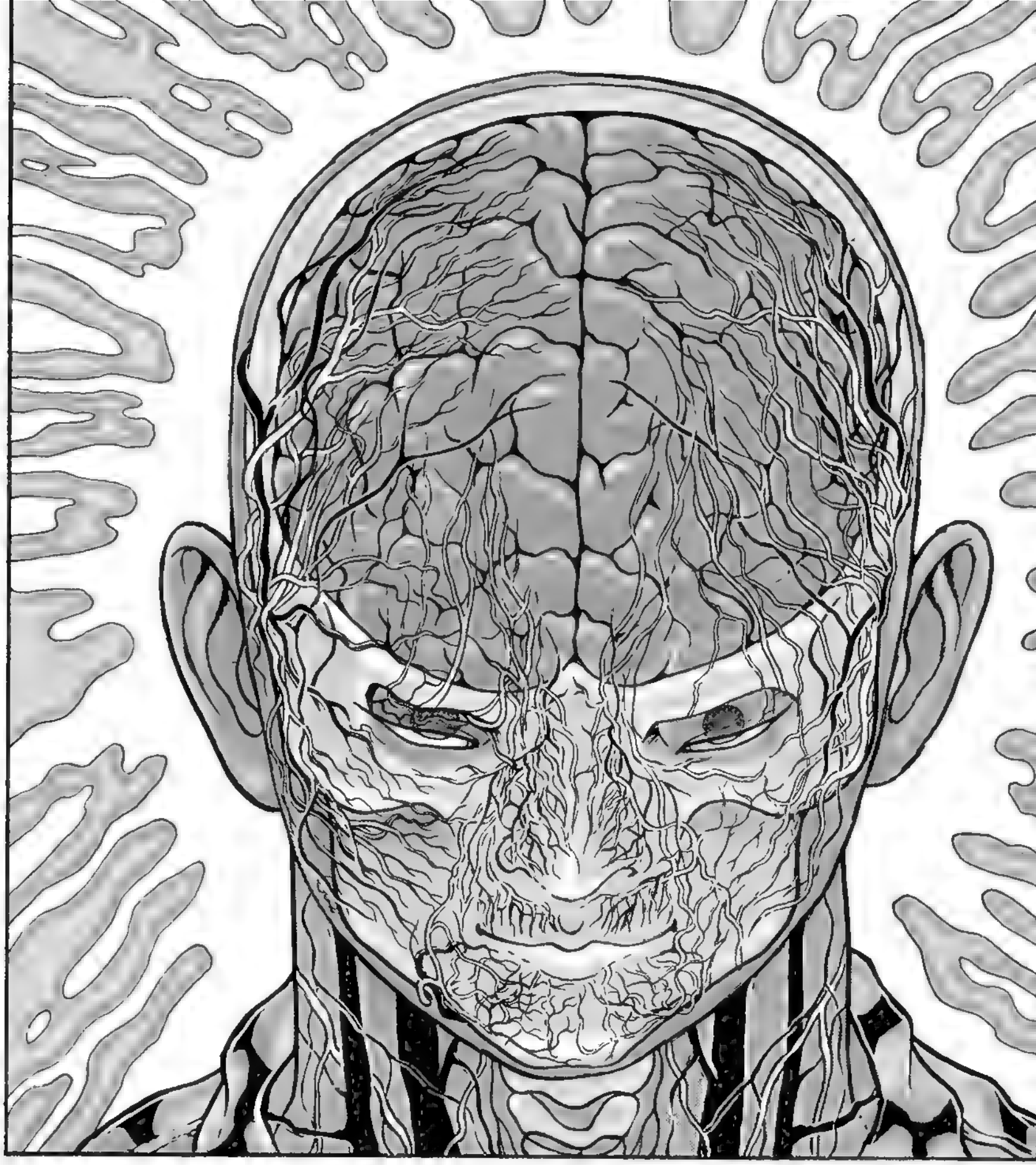
Q...

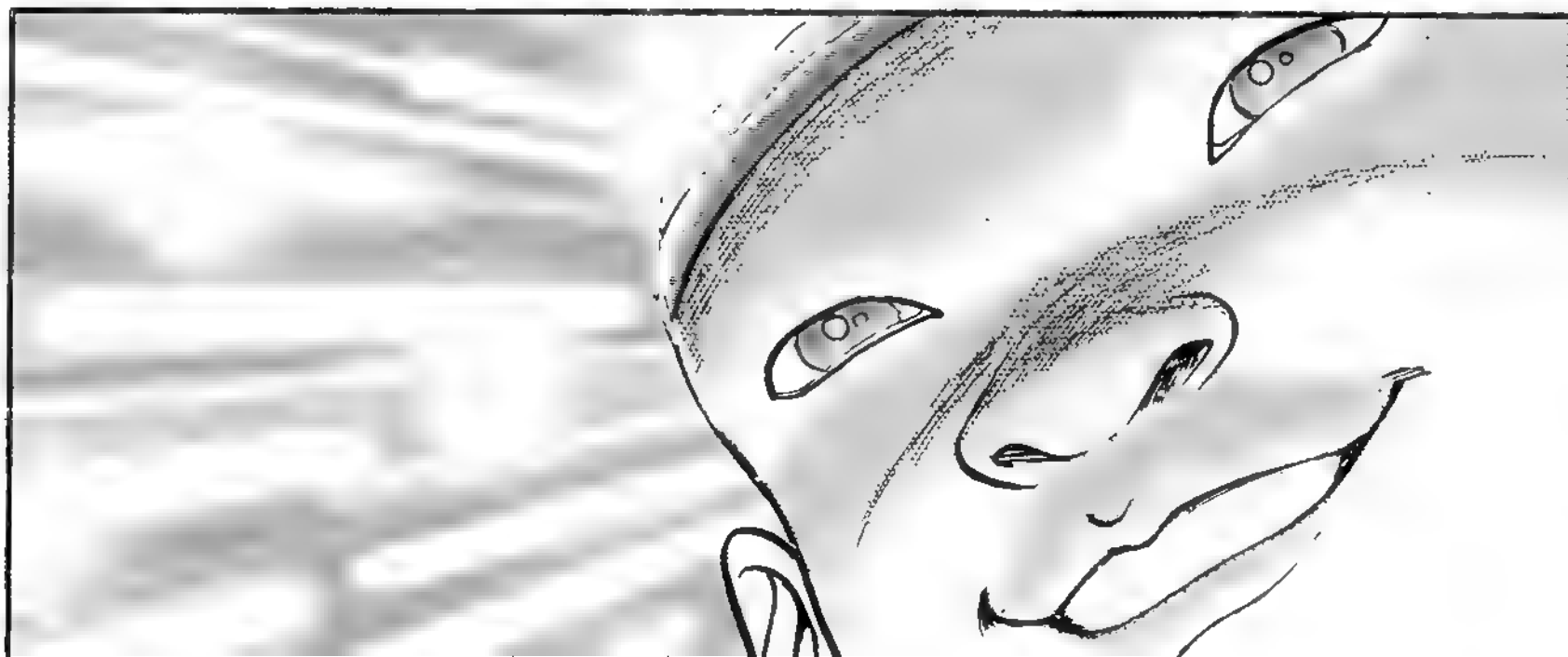
FEAR NOT...
SHMP
I AM NO LONGER NOMURA, WHO YOU FACED LAST NIGHT...
...!
POOR BOY...
YOU WILL EXPERIENCE FIRSTHAND HOW FOOLISH IT IS TO OPPOSE THE GOD OF THE EARTH, GAIA.
W- WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HE HAS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT AURA FROM THAT SKUNK BASTARD FROM LAST NIGHT!

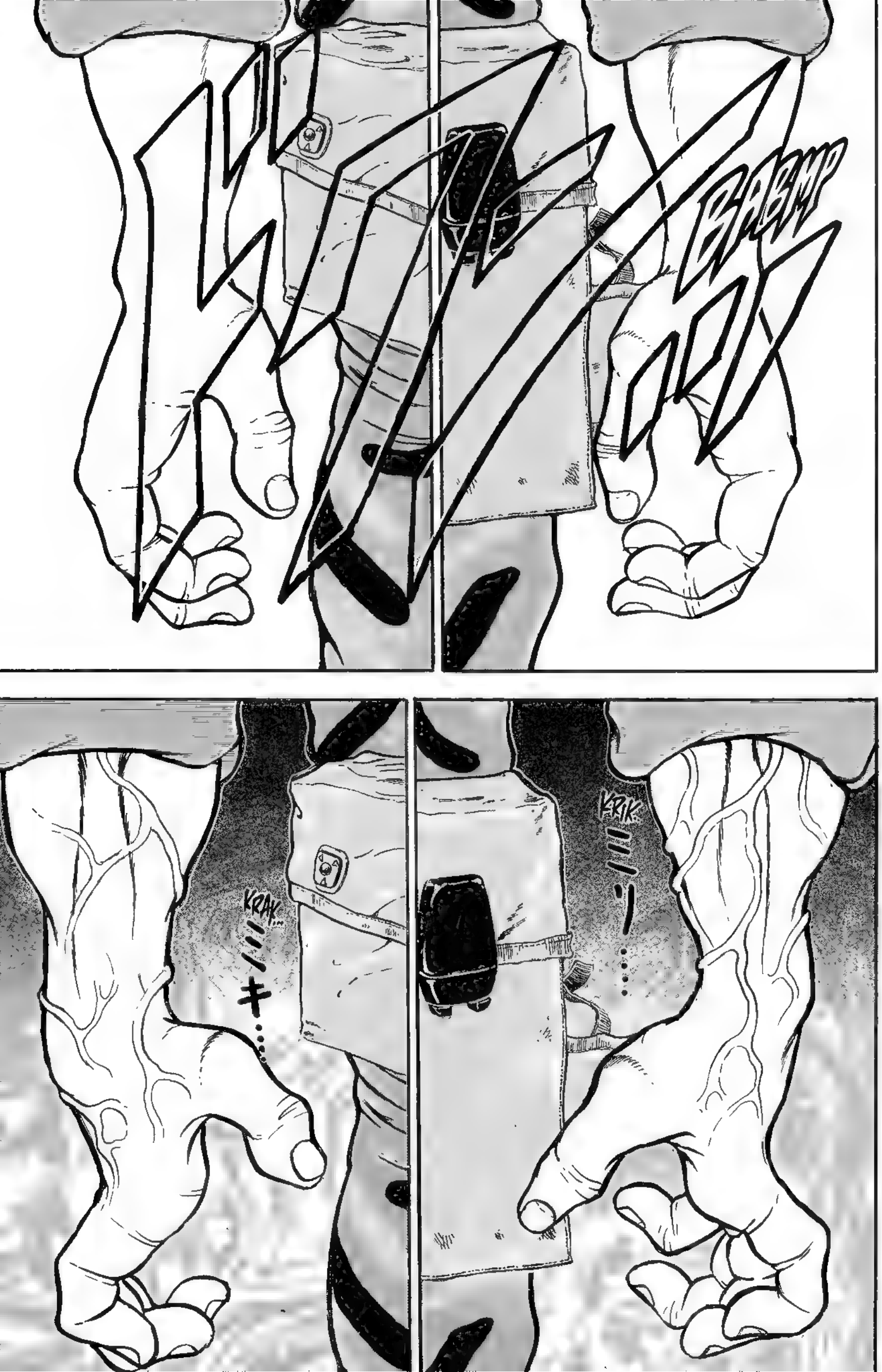
BLAMP

I'M CONTROLLING... MY ADRENALINE FLOW A BIT.

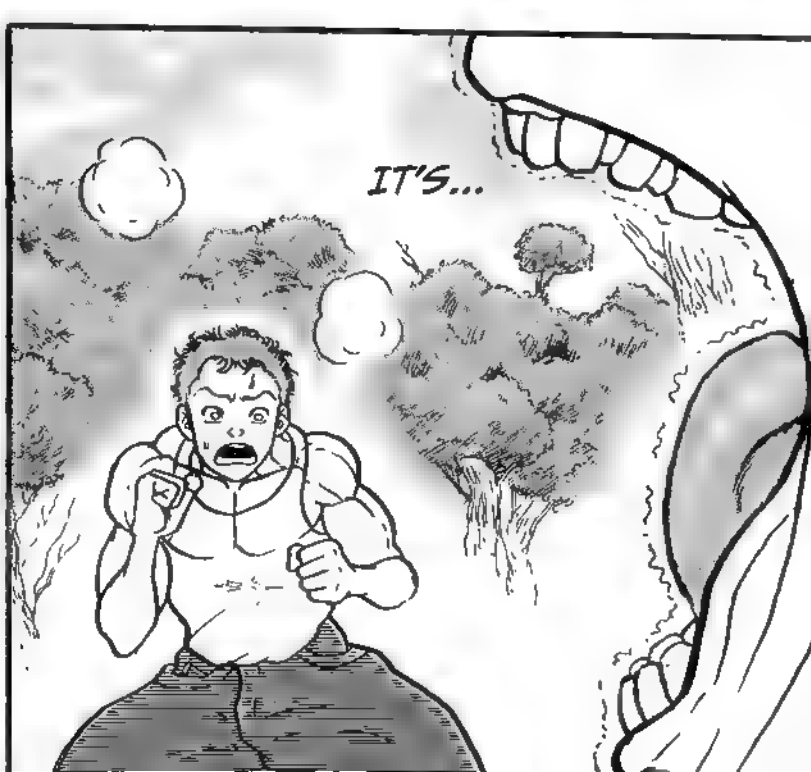
BOOM






BABMP
KRIK
ミーリ……
KRAK...
ミキ…

IT'S THE SAME AS THAT!!!


IT'S...

NOW... COME AT ME.

NO MATTER HOW YOU STRUGGLE, THE TRUTH IS THAT YOU CAN NEVER DEFY GOD...

YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED A THING, BOY.

SWIP

YOU FELL FOR IT!!!

GRAB

KEH!

SHOU

GOD OF THE EARTH, MY ASS!!!

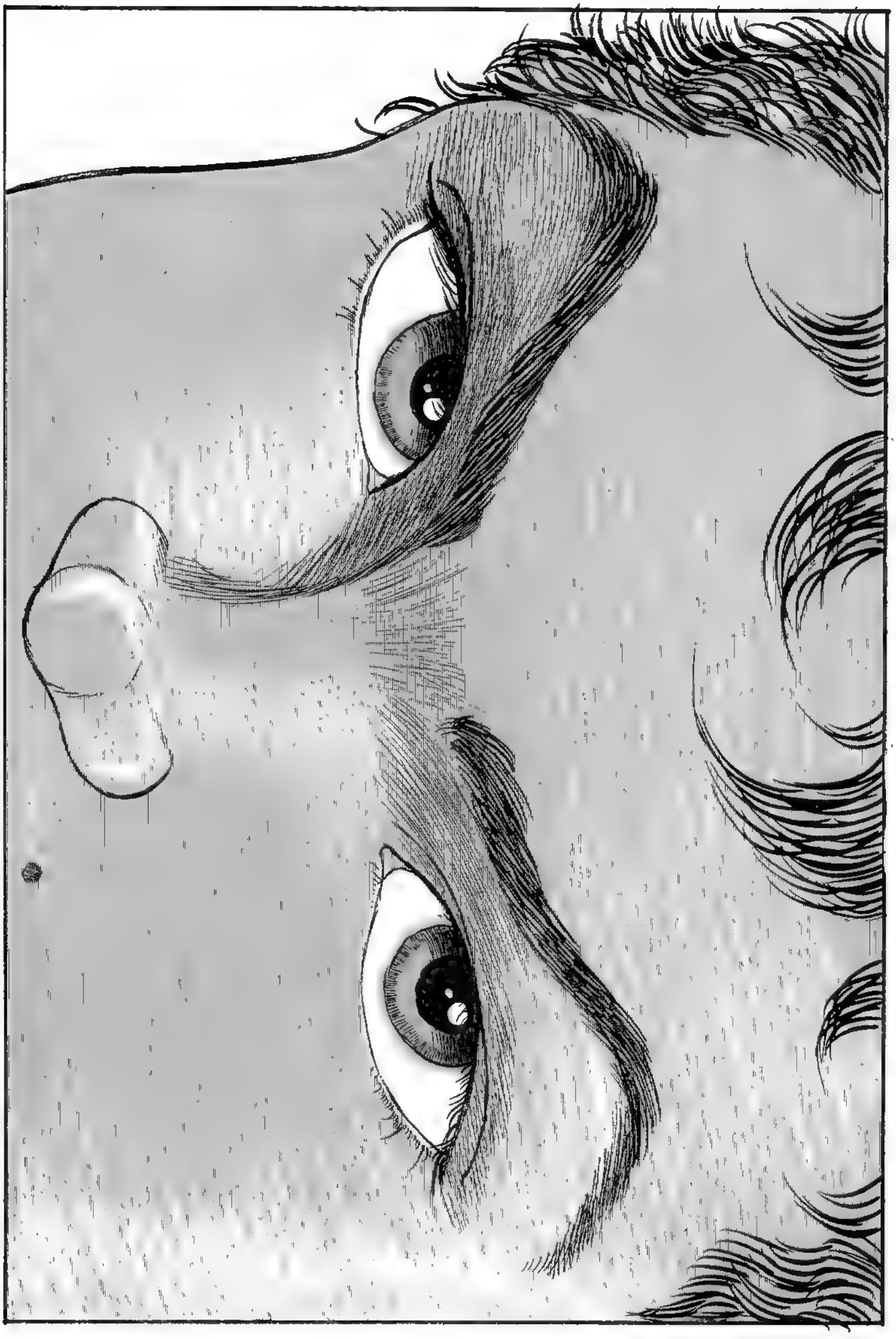
YOU MISGUIDED FOOL, TRYING TO TRICK A GOD...

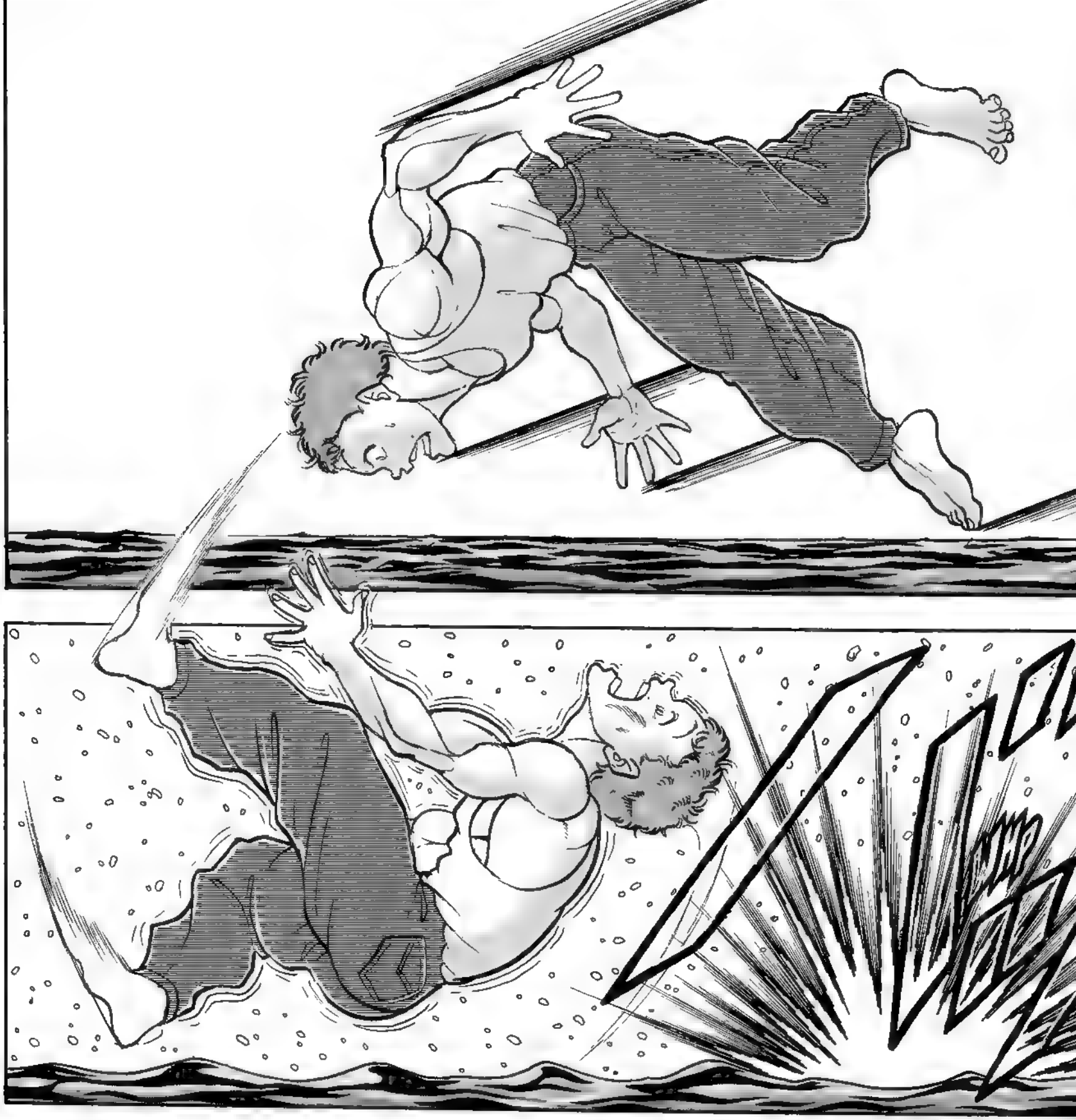
RETURN TO THE EARTH FROM WHENCE YOU CAME!

SLASH

HE'S NOT HUMAN...!!!

#143 Latent Potential Full Throttle





BAM

HE'S NOT HUMAN...

...THE LATENT POTENTIAL HUMANITY INHERENTLY POSSESSES...

ザッ SHMP

ザッ SHMP

MIRACLES BROUGHT FORTH THROUGH ADRENALINE MANIPULA-TION...

ザッ SHMP

ザッ SHMP

...I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF.

...

MODERN OLYMPIC HISTORY IS ESSENTIALLY A SHOWCASE OF HOW HUMANS APPROACH THEIR LATENT POTENTIAL!

DSH

DSH

DSH

DSH

HE'S GONNA JUMP THAT TEN-METER-WIDE POND?!

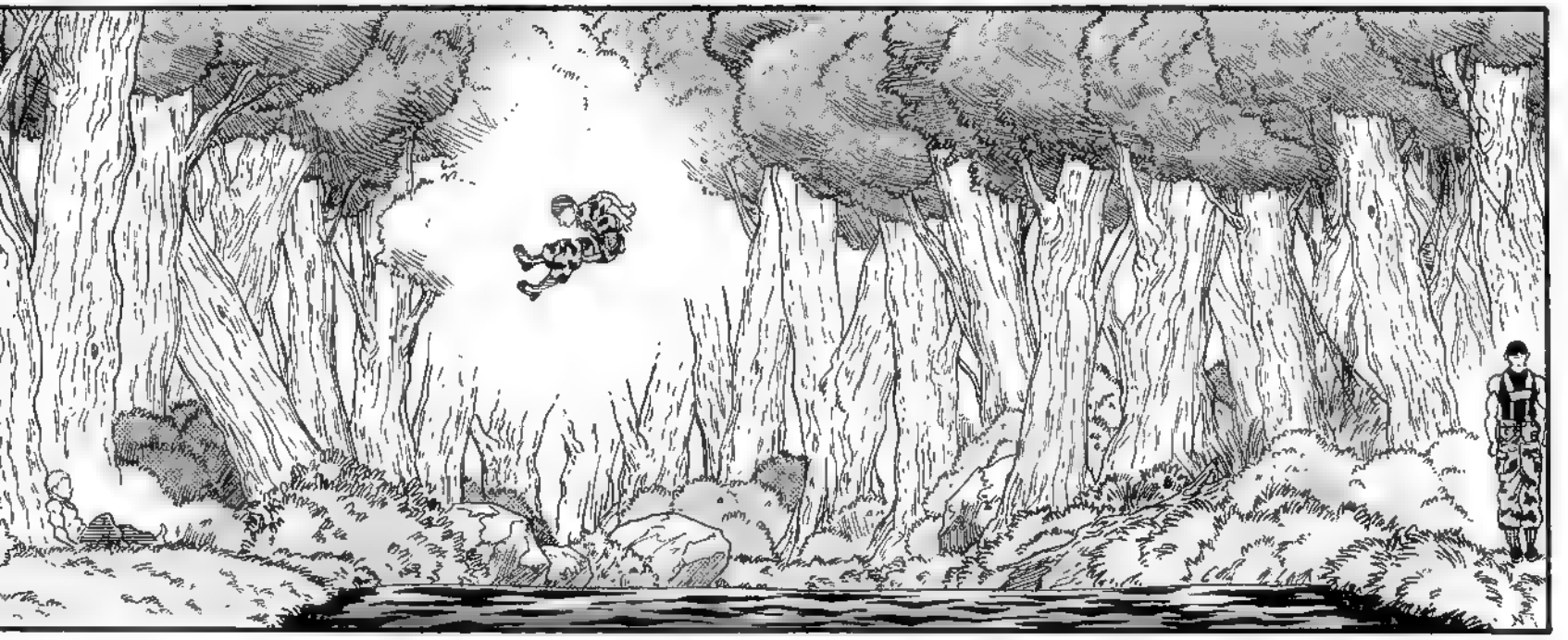
...WERE NOTHING MORE THAN A WASTE OF TIME!!!

BUT IN MY OPINION, ALL THOSE EXAMPLES...

PSSH

PSSH

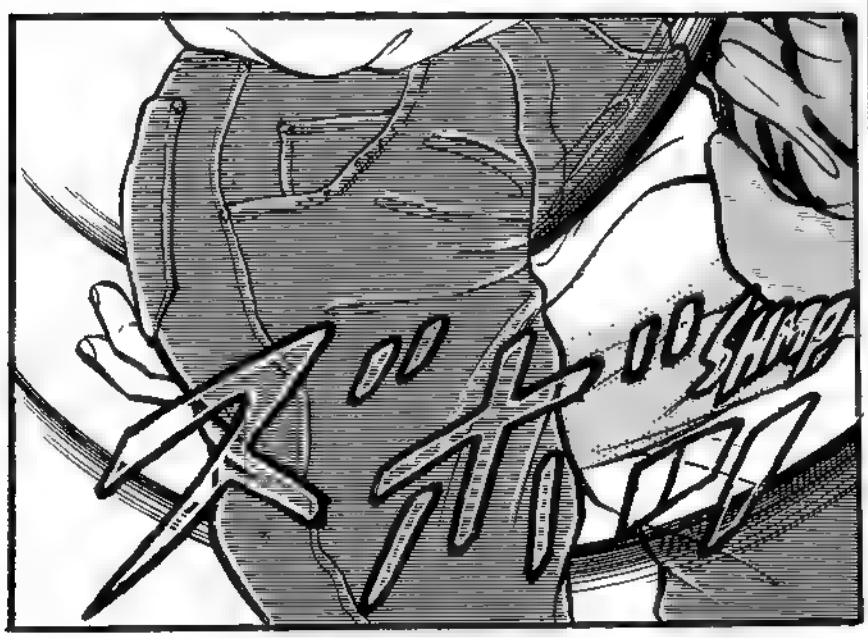
PSSH



SLAM

BECAUSE I, WHEN SO INCLINED, AM CAPABLE OF SHATTERING THE WORLD RECORDS OF EVERY ATHLETE...

I'M NOT SURPRISED...
NOW, NOW, JUST WHERE ARE YOU GO-ING?
IF HE'S AS POWERFUL AS MY DAD, THEN OF COURSE HE CAN DO THAT.
BUT EVEN SO...!!!
I'M NOT GONNA LOSE!!!



HAVE YOU EVER HIT THE GROUND AT EIGHTY KILOMETERS AN HOUR?

BAM

IT'S THE EQUIVALENT TO FALLING OUT OF A WINDOW FROM SEVEN STORIES UP.

SHAK
TEN-HUT!!!
HOWEVER, THE REAL TERROR ISN'T THE GROUND.

DO YOU KNOW ...
...WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SUBSTANCE KNOWN AS *WATER* WHEN IT IMPACTS A SURFACE AT THAT SPEED?

...!

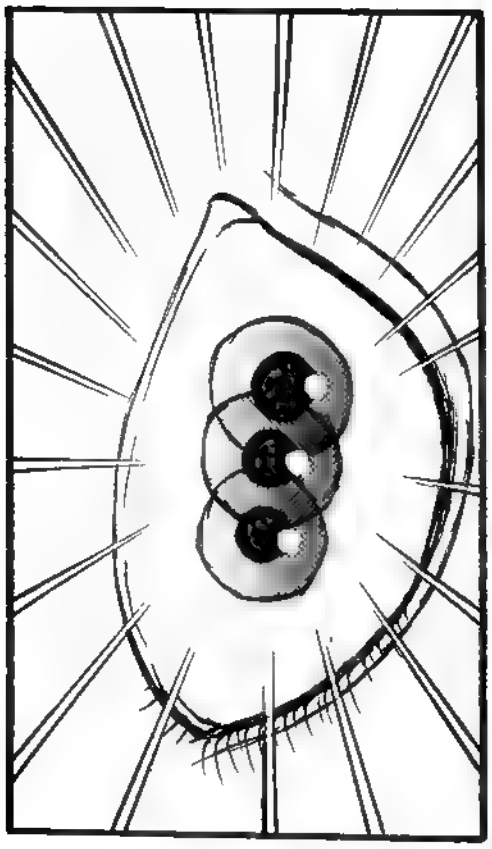
IT BECOMES AS HARD AS CONCRETE !!!

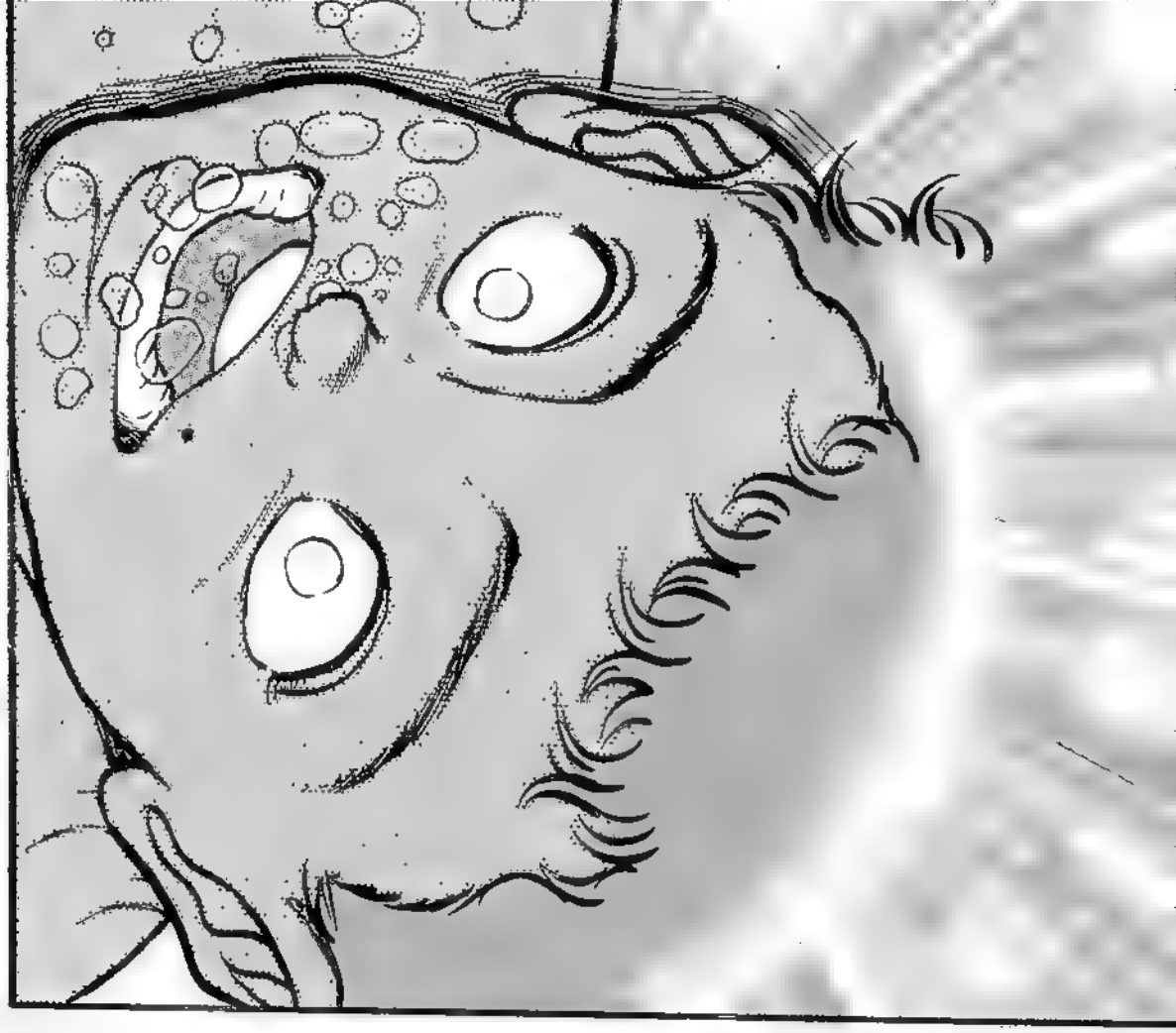
BOOM

SPLASH

BAM

SPLASH
SHF
AT EASE!!!

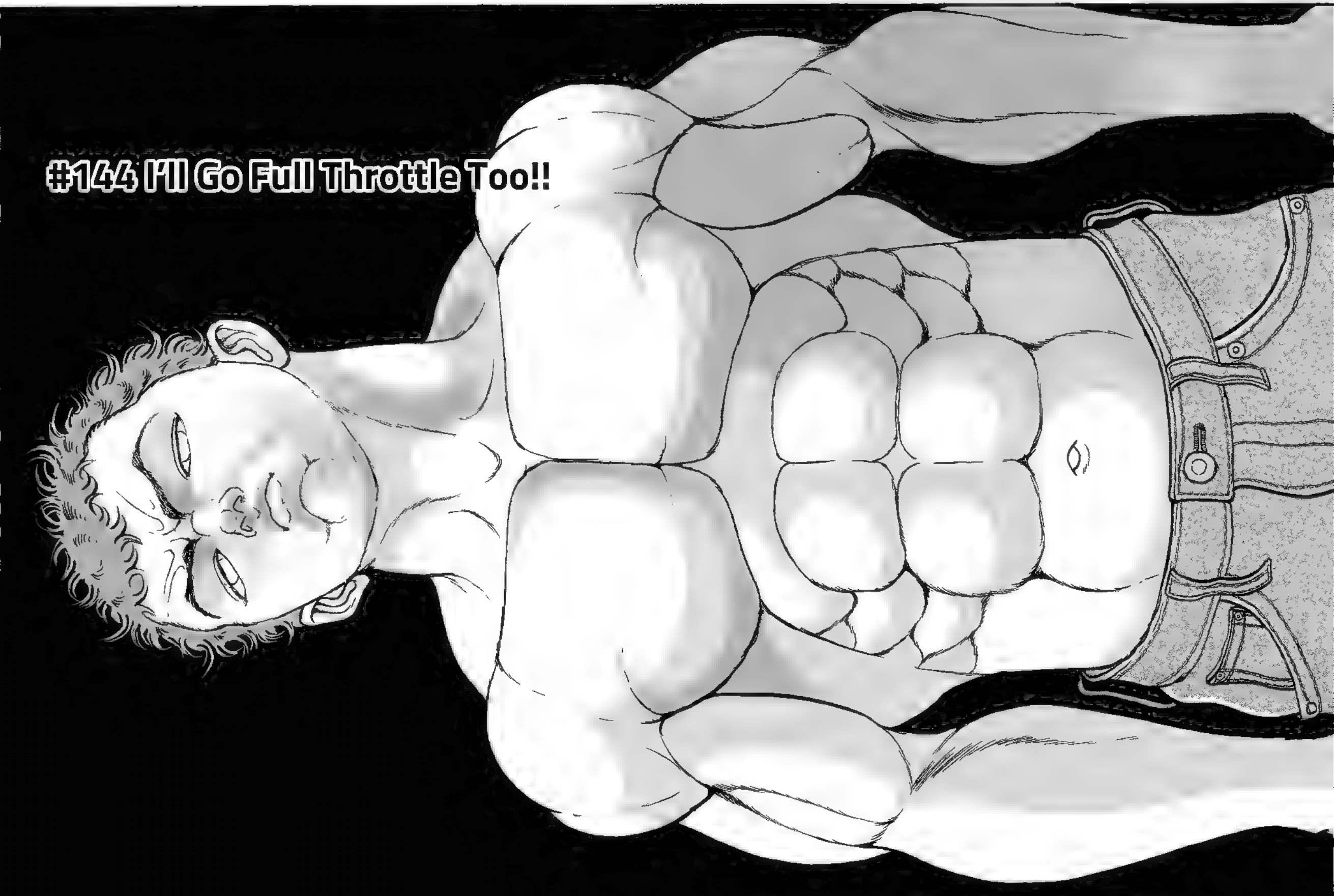




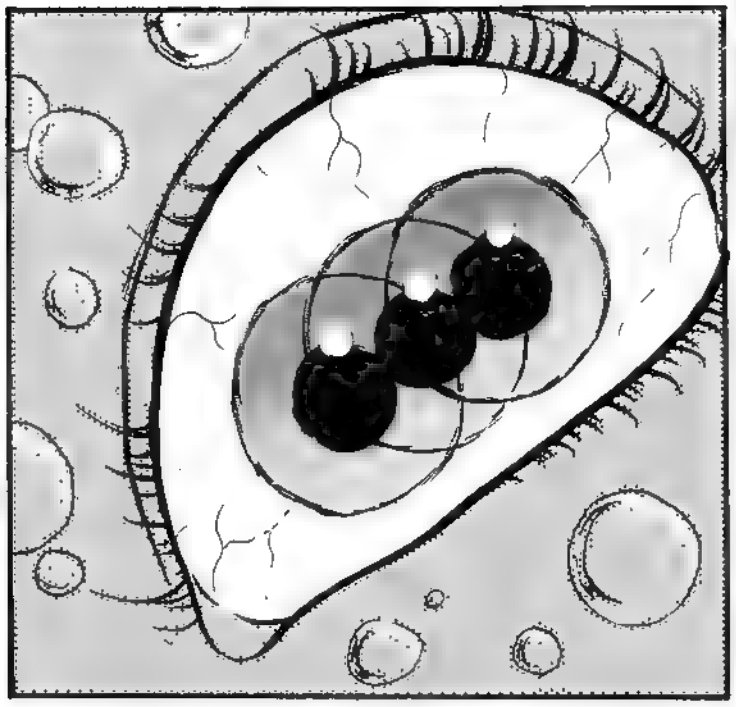
SPLOOSH

OHO... ENDORPHINS, HUH?

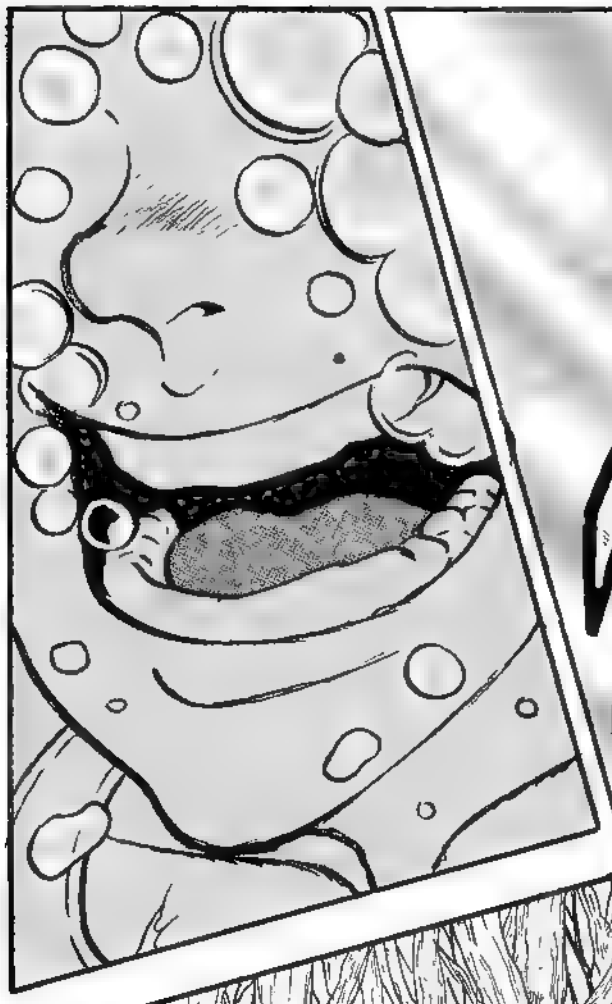
#144 I'll Go Full Throttle Too!!



GLUB
GLUB
GLUB



BLUB



ゴボゴボ

ゴボゴボ
BLUB
BLUB

SPOOSH

ENDORPHINS, HUH?

I HEAR THE EXHILARATION EXCEEDS YOUR WILDEST IMAGINATION AND TAKES AWAY THE PAIN.

THEY ARE SECRETED WHEN THE PAIN IN ONE'S BODY CROSSES A THRESHOLD.

THE SON OF OGRE ...

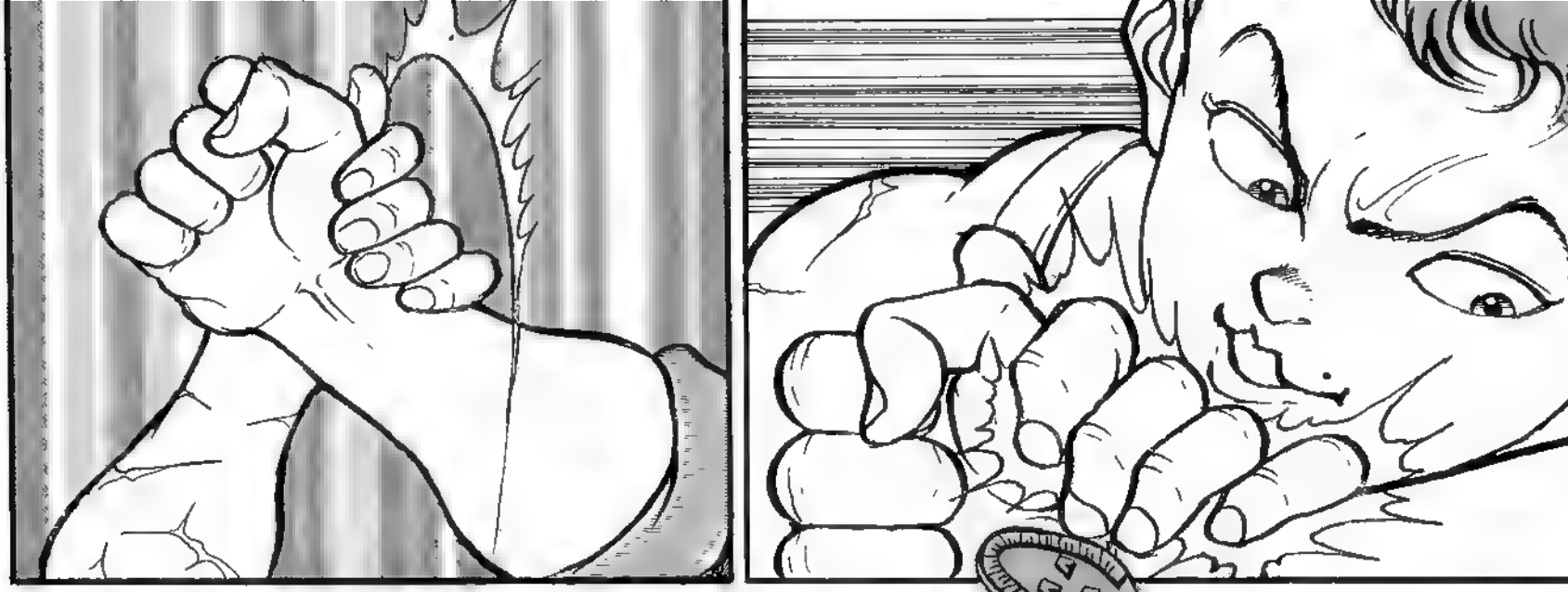
ON TOP OF THAT, IT UNLOCKS ABILITIES FAR BEYOND THE NORM...

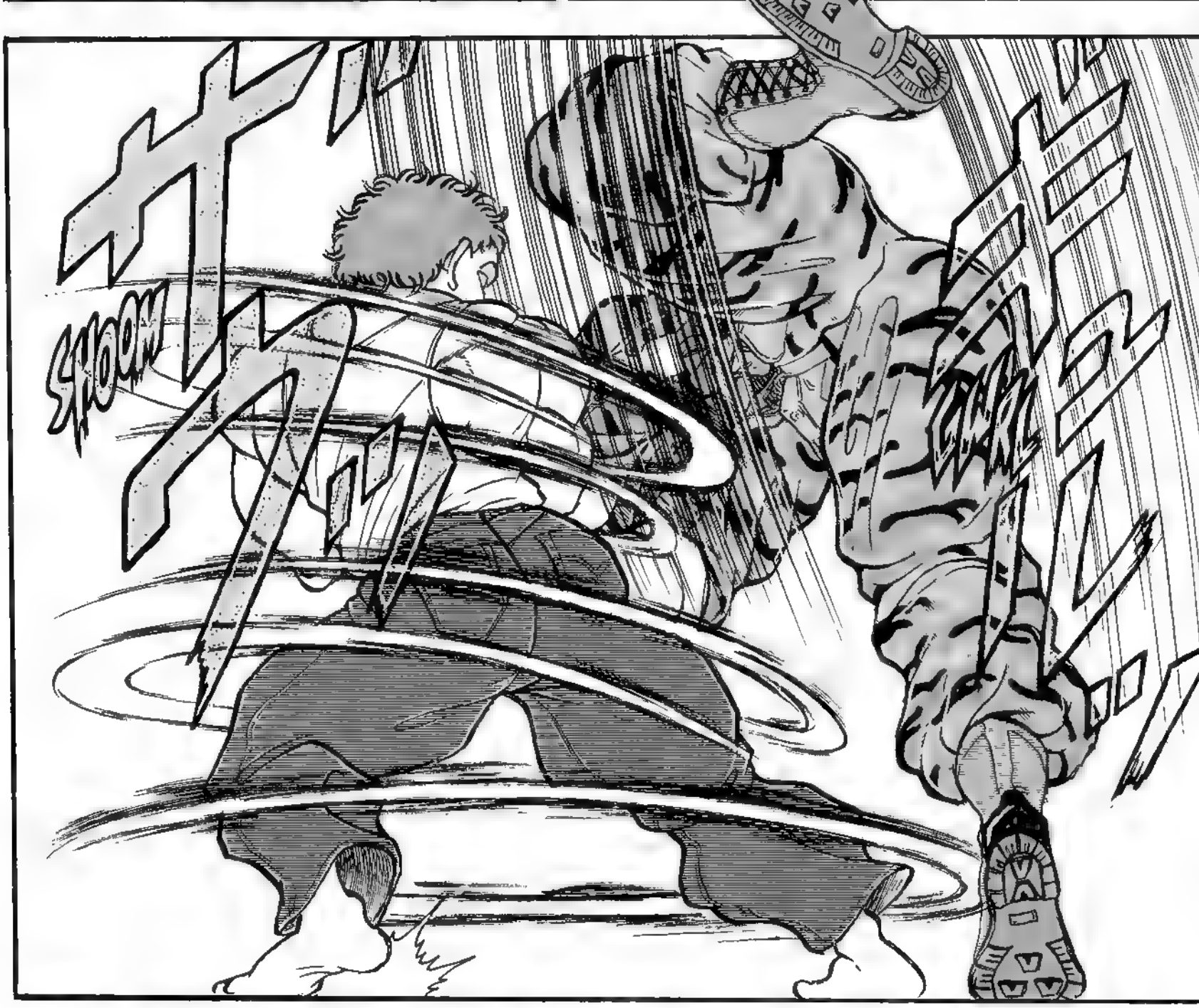
HE JUMPED FIVE METERS OUT OF CHEST-HIGH WATER!!!

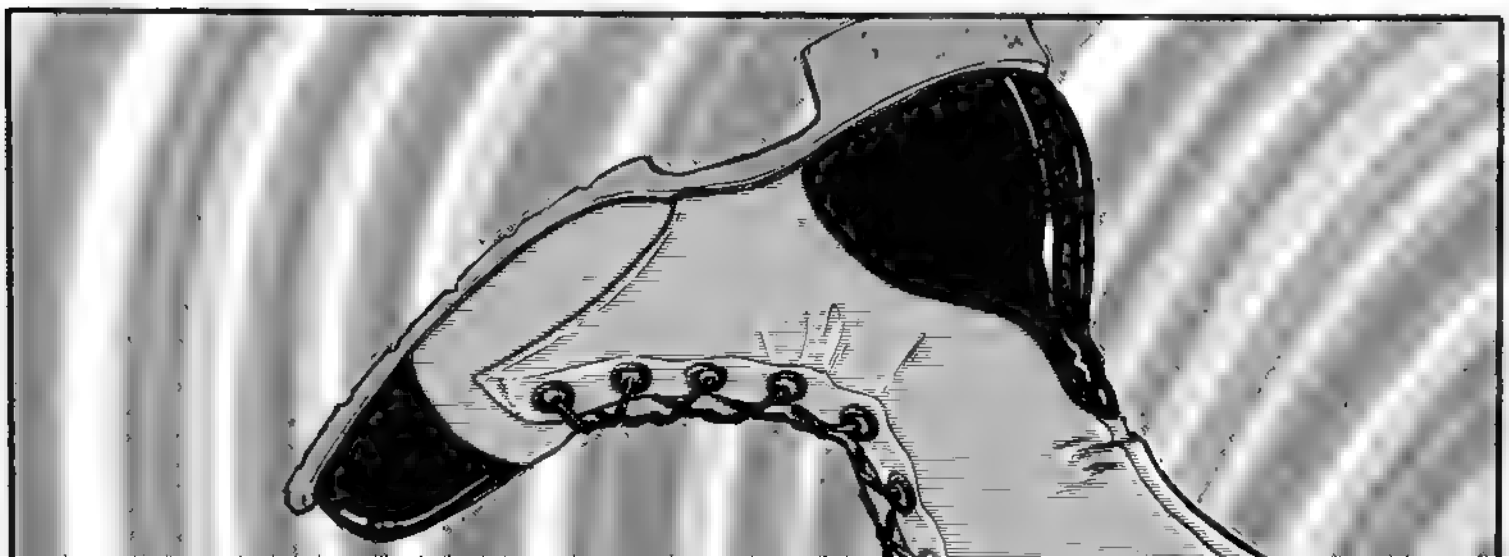
THEY HAVE EQUAL LEG STRENGTH... NO...

BAKI MIGHT BE STRONGER ...!

HE DODGED RIGHT AS HIS FIST MADE CONTACT !!!




SPOOM



SHF

GHO

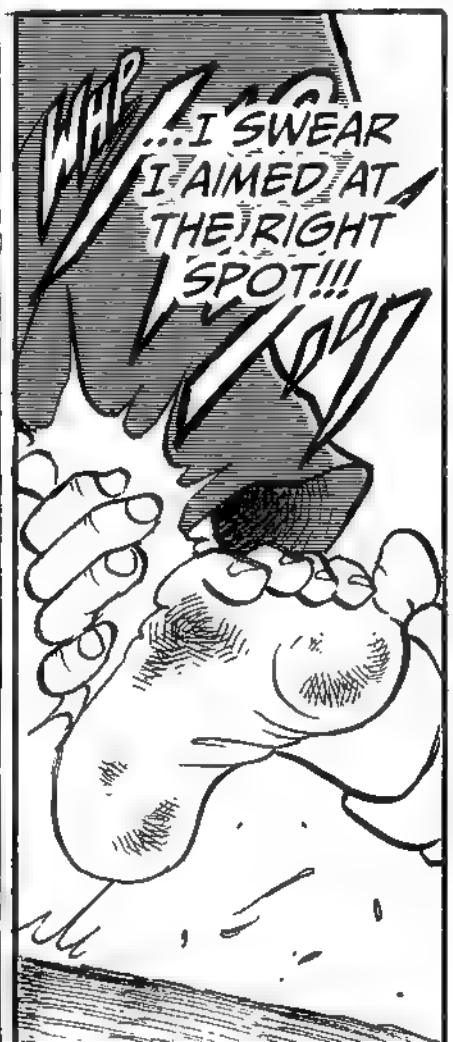
HE CINCHED IT!

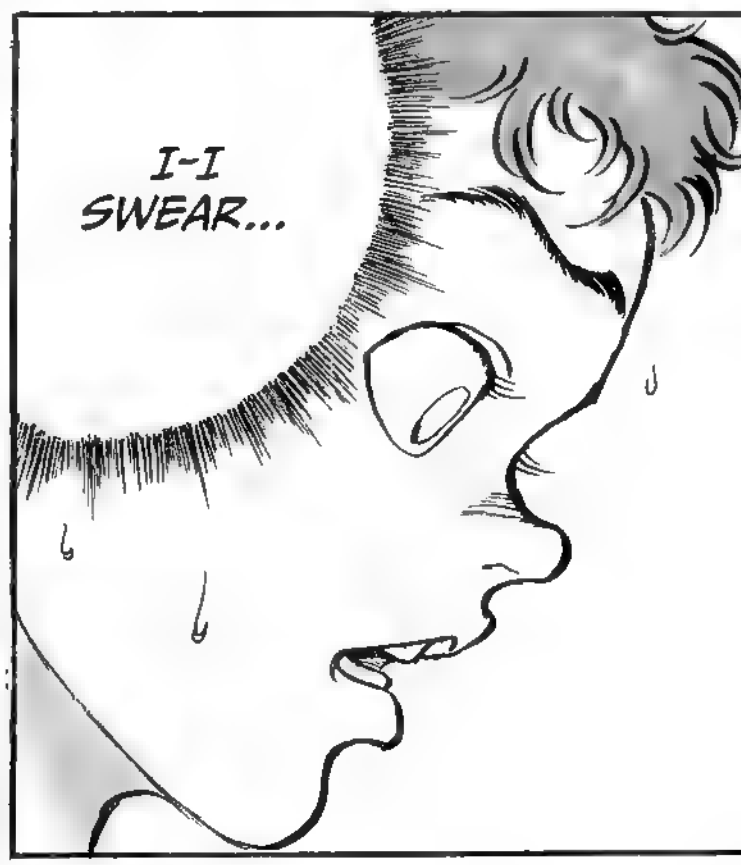
SHOMT
HE STOOD UP!

ZWP

HEH... SO EVEN A GOD TRIPS UP SOMETIMES, HUH?
TAKE THISSSS!!!

SQUASH


...I SWEAR I AIMED AT THE RIGHT SPOT!!!


I-I SWEAR...

DMF
CONTROLLING ADRENALINE...
I AM WELL AWARE THAT OGRE IS NOT SOMEONE I CAN BEAT WITH JUST THAT TALENT ALONE.
BUT... WHAT IF EVERYTHING IN THE ENVIRONMENT WAS ON MY SIDE?

WHAT IF EVERYTHING WAS MY ALLY?
THE GRASS, THE TREES, THE EARTH, THE WATER, THE WIND...

IT'S NOT JUST THE ENVIRONMENT.

NOW YOU'RE JUST TALKING CRAZY.

HEY, HEY, YOU'RE PUMPING *TOO MUCH* ADRENALINE, AREN'T YOU?

YOUR STRIKES AREN'T TOUCHING MY BODY FOR SOME REASON.

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

Y...

WHAT IF EVEN *YOUR* BODY SIDED WITH *ME?*

WHAT IF...

#145 A Soul Betrayed

YOUR STRIKES AREN'T TOUCHING MY BODY FOR SOME REASON.

DO YOU KNOW THE WHY?

...!

IT'S BECAUSE YOUR BODY IS ON *MY* SIDE, NOT *YOURS.*

...ISN'T ON MY SIDE ...?!

MY BODY...

...!

GRIP

KHMP

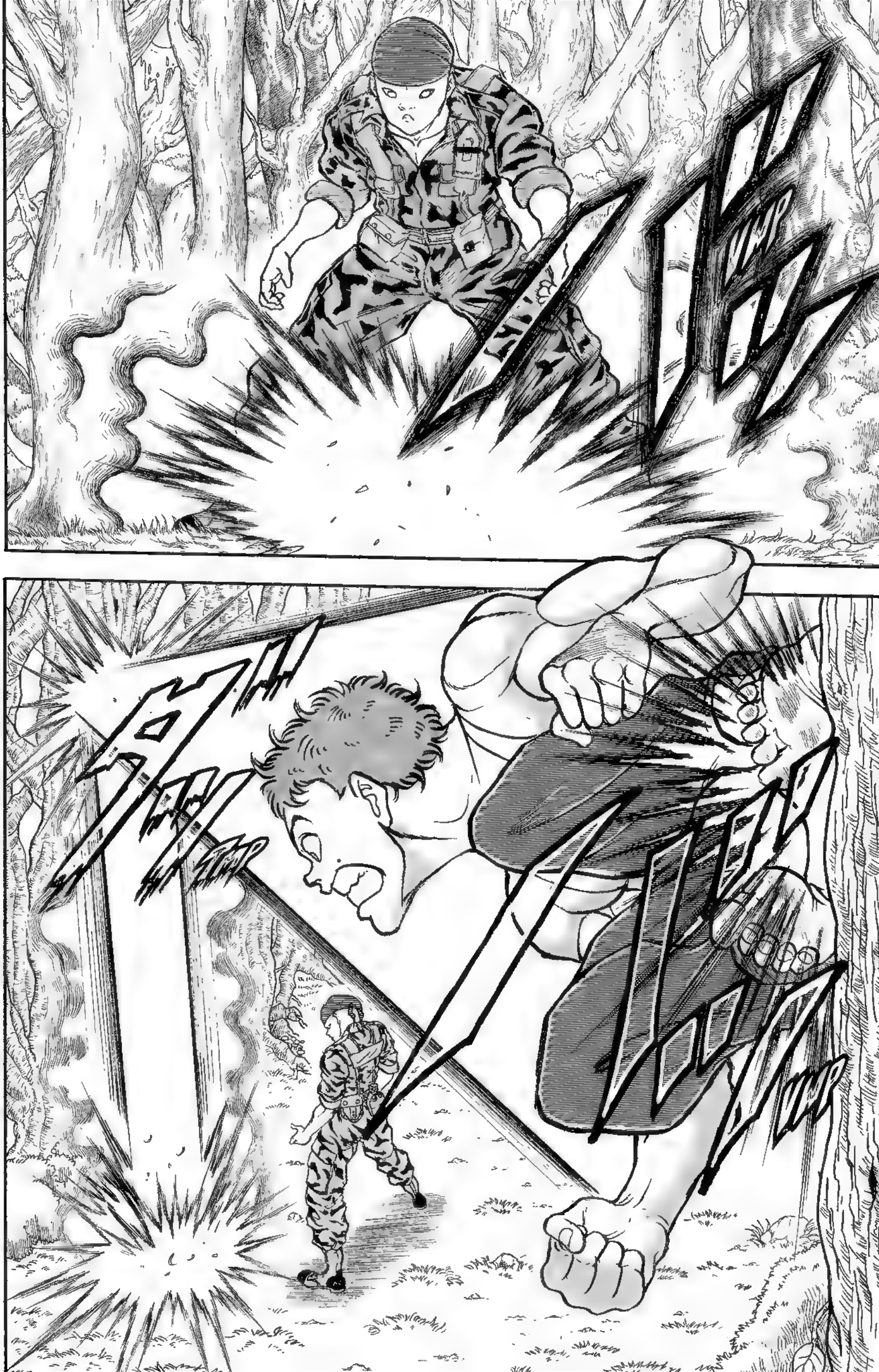
HA HA HA.

GRK...

CHECKING TO SEE IF YOU'RE STILL IN CONTROL OF YOUR OWN LIMBS?

NORMALLY, YOU WOULD'VE TRIED TO SWOOP IN, CLOSE THE DISTANCE, AND TAKE ME DOWN.

LIKE THIS!
HEH.
...!



URYAH!

KAPEW

SHOOM

KEH!

I WON'T STOP...

...UNTIL I HIT YOU!

HE CAN'T DO IT...

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE YOUR BODY SUFFER?!

STOP ALREADY !!!

WHAT...?

WHA?!

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT YOUR BODY.

ゴクッ

...!

YOUR UNNATURALLY DEVELOPED MUSCLES...

THE COUNTLESS SCARS CARVED INTO YOU...

...MAKING YOUR BODY SUFFER FOR OVER TEN YEARS.

THOSE ARE ALL EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN...

...!

...JUSTIFIED BY YOUR SELFISH DESIRE TO GROW STRONGER.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'VE PUT YOUR BODY THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN...

...

YOU KNOW THEY AREN'T.

ARE THOSE THE THINGS YOUR BODY *REALLY* WANTED?

YOUR EXTRAORDINARY MUSCLES, SPEED, TECHNIQUES...

...ALL SO YOU COULD PUSH YOUR RELENTLESS, SELFISH DESIRES.

YOU GAINED ALL OF THAT BY IGNORING YOUR BODY AS IT BEGGED FOR REST...

ALL THE TRILLIONS OF CELLS IN YOUR BODY ARE SCREAMING OUT THE SAME MESSAGE...

LISTEN WELL...

...OF A SOUL DEVOID OF LOVE!!!

THEY'RE DONE FOLLOWING THE COMMANDS...

I'M GONN EAT!

QUIT BEING RIDICULOU—

DRIP...

Q...

EVEN YOUR *SWEAT* IS STARTING TO REBEL AGAINST YOU NOW.

!

YOU SEE?

NARY A SCAR UPON IT.

LOOK AT MY BODY.

DEVOID OF THOSE ABSURD MUSCLES YOU HAVE.

MY BODY IS FILLED WITH AFFECTION...

...FOR HAVING NEVER MET A SOUL SUCH AS MINE.

...WHILE YOUR BODY LAMENTS ITS FATE...

HEH HEH.

WHA ...?!

ALTHOUGH, TO REPAY MY LOVE FOR IT, IT WILL GLADLY TURN ITSELF INTO A *KNIFE...*

IT'S JUST A BAMBOO LEAF.

WHY ARE YOU SO SURPISED?

...!

JUST AS YOUR BODY IS HAPPILY OFFERING ITSELF AS A SACRIFICE...

AS ANY-THING AND EVERYTHING AROUND YOU TRANSFORMS INTO YOUR ENEMY?!

DO YOU STILL INTEND TO FIGHT ?!

...!

...!!!

IT WILL REFUSE TO ATTACK *ME...!!!*

YOUR BODY WILL NO LONGER FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS!

YOUR BODY DESERVES TO BE FREE— IT IS NOW MY CLOSEST ALLY.

...!

FREE IT AT ONCE.

キリ

#146 One-Hundred Pieces of Bloodlust

...!
NOW IS A GOOD TIME...
...TO TELL YOU WHY YOUR ATTACKS WILL NEVER HIT ME.
SHF...

THE UGANDAN CIVIL WAR THAT BROKE OUT DUE TO THE MISRULE OF *AMIN*, THE MAN WHO BECAME INFAMOUS AS THE *CANNIBAL PRESIDENT.*

THOUGH STILL A MERCENARY IN TRAINING, I RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM THE ANTI-AMIN FACTION AND INFILTRATED UGANDA.

IT WAS *1981* AND THE WAR CONTINUED TO ESCALATE...

AT THE AGE OF TWENTY, I POPPED MY CHERRY* IN UGANDA.

*"POPPED MY CHERRY" – FIRST TIME KILLING AN ENEMY

KNIVES.

CROSS-BOWS.

HAND-TO-HAND.

THERE, I FIRST LEARNED...

...OF THE FINE WINE KNOWN AS MURDER.

I WAS INTOXICATED BY THAT *WINE.*

I TOOK *PLEASURE* IN BEING ABLE TO USE THE TECHNIQUES I ACQUIRED TO MY HEART'S CONTENT!

ゴッ

GRRR...

...I FOUND MYSELF TAKING GREAT RISKS JUST FOR A SIP OF IT.

SO MUCH SO, IN FACT, THAT BEFORE I KNEW IT...

SHM...
ザッ
SHM...
ザッ

NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BE A YELLOW-SKIN.

SHM...
ザッ

...IS SOMETHING PROHIBITED BY THE GENEVA CONVENTION, BUT THEIR RULES DON'T APPLY FOR MERCENARIES.

TORTURING PRISONERS OF WAR...

I WAS TO BE IMMEDIATELY EXECUTED!

THE FEAR OF A HUNDRED BARRELS AIMED AT ME.

THE THOUGHT OF CERTAIN DEATH.

ハラハラ… FLAKE… FLAKE…

FINISHED SAYING YOUR PRAYERS, MONKEY?

THREE!!!

TWO !!!

THE REALITY OF BEING AT DEATH'S DOOR SHARPENED MY SENSES TO THEIR PEAK.

ONE MORE SECOND AND I'M DEAD!!!

ONE!!!

GRP GRP

THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED.

I FELT SOMETHING POWERFUL HIT MY BODY!

MURDEROUS INTENT, BLOODLUST— IT GOES BY MANY NAMES.

?!

AND THAT SENSE...

IT WAS THAT *SENSE* PEOPLE GET RIGHT BEFORE THEY CONDUCT A DECISIVE ACTION!

...CONCENTRATED A HUNDRED TIMES OVER.

...STRUCK MY SHARPENED NERVES...

AND THE SHOTS...
...NEVER FIRED.
THE FEAR WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE MY HAIR FALL OUT, YET I STILL MANAGED TO ESCAPE IT.
IT WAS MORE THAN JUST A CLOSE SCRAPE WITH DEATH.
IN JAPAN, THEY CALL THIS "FINDING BUDDHA IN HELL," RIGHT?
...AND THEY MANAGED TO RESCUE ME JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME.
THE ANTI-AMIN FACTION CAUGHT WORD THAT I'D BEEN TAKEN PRISONER...
"GRP"

ON THE HUNDRED FLASHES OF BLOODLUST THAT HIT ME BEFORE THE HUNDREDS OF ENEMY BULLETS COULD.

BUT I RUMINATED ON IT.

MY ENEMIES' TACTICS, FIGHTING SPIRIT, MORALE— ALL OF IT WAS INCONSEQUENTIAL BEFORE ME.

DUE TO THIS INCIDENT, MY INSTINCTS TOWARD DANGER WERE SHARPENED TO A GODLIKE LEVEL.

I COULD READ EVERY ATTACK COMING AT ME LIKE AN OPEN BOOK.

IT BECAME EVEN MORE CLEAR IN CLOSE-QUARTERS COMBAT.

NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY YOUR ATTACKS CAN'T TOUCH ME?

I HAD BEEN REBORN!

I DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM!!!

IT'S OVER! THIS MAN... I...

IT'S BECAUSE YOUR HEART HAS BEEN TELLING ME EVERY ATTACK YOU'LL THROW OUT.

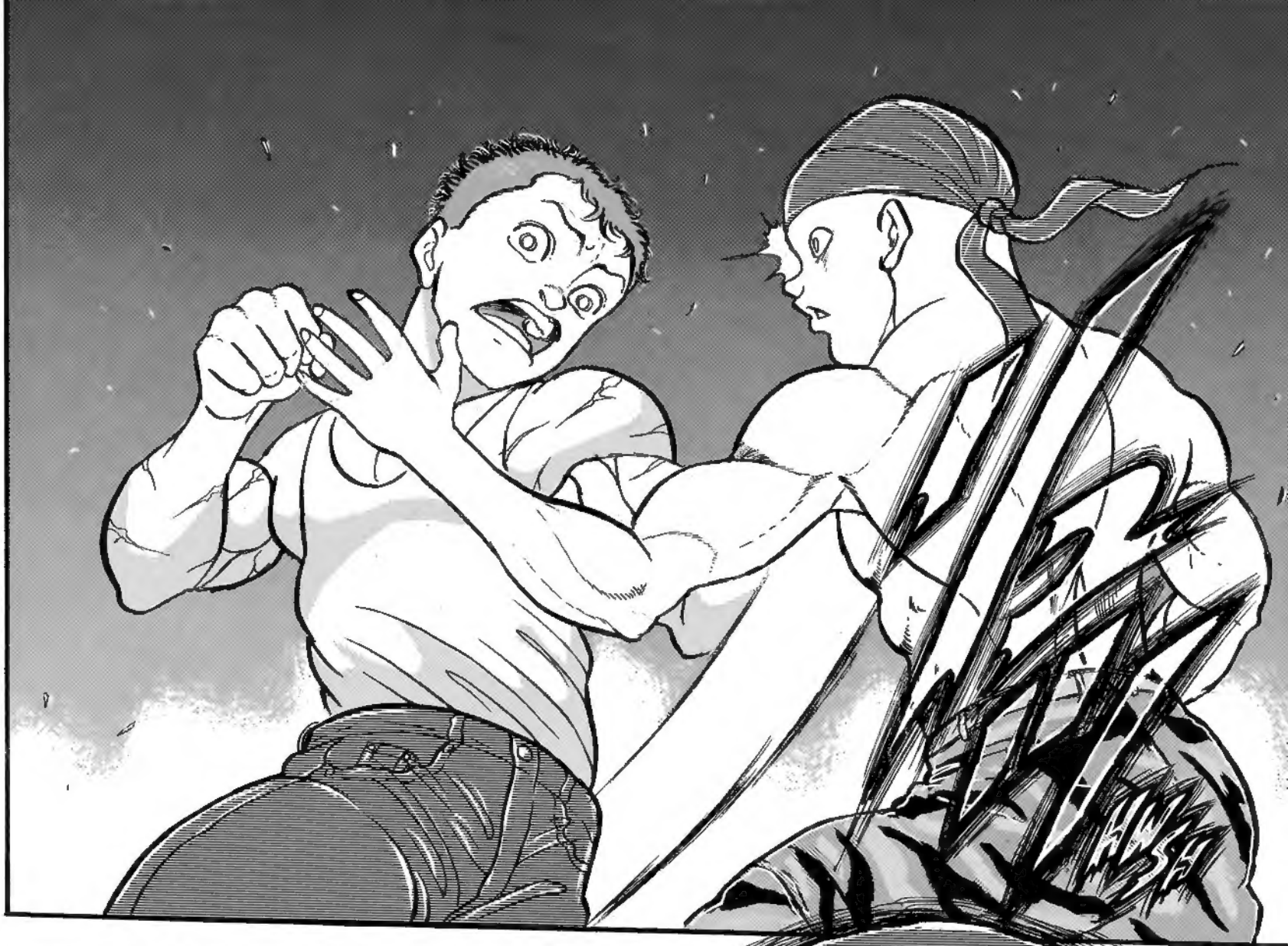
NUDGE

I'M ABOUT TO...

HWSH!

...SET THAT BODY OF YOURS FREE!

K-SHOOM



Baki the Grappler Vol. 9 (End)

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Baki the Grappler Vol. 9 by Keisuke Itagaki 2008.
Original Japanese edition published in 2008 by AKITASHOTEN Co., Ltd.
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Translator: David Evelyn
Letterer: Rafael Zaiats
Cover / Logo Design: Tom “spAde” Bertrand (BlackStudio)
Publishing Advisor: Sullivan Rouaud

Editor: Michael SJ Lacerna
Copyeditor: Haize
Marketing: Seb Saebyul
Production: Jennie Flogstad
Printing Supervision: Reiko Musha
Director of Operations: Kashu Kondo
CFO & Co-founder: Pierre Dubost
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Kodama Tales Inc.
2200 Colorado Avenue,
Santa Monica, CA 90404, USA

contact@kodama-tales.com
www.kodama-tales.com

ISBN: 978-1-966523-11-6

First Printing: February 2026
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Japan
by Kyodo Printing Co., Ltd.

KODAMA